

INSIDE

Your quality Australian weekly soccer paper for the new millennium

SOCCER

Registered with Australia Post as a publication PP224696/00050 - ISSN 1321-8980

May 23, 2000. \$3.00

Wolves' Glorious shot at history

**Special
Finals
issue****But is****Young's****goal****enough****for Nick T's****side?**

By Aidan Ormond

Four-and-a-half years ago when a hitherto unknown 31-year-old NSL coaching virgin Nick Theodorakopoulos took over the coaching reins at Wollongong, suggestions of a final day finish would have landed you in the nearest south coast home for the seriously deranged. Now, in the year of the 2000 Olympics, Wollongong Wolves are a tantalizing 90 minutes away from making Australian soccer history: hosting for the first time the gold medal event, the NSL grand final.

Ironically, four years ago the side that presently stands in their way, Perth Glory, was also drawing up their own plans for grand final success. Charismatic and driven Glory chairman Nick Tana said from day one he hoped that by year four his club would be challenging for the title. Well, two coaches and one finals series appearance later, they are. This weekend in Perth they will meet a Wolves side buoyed, yet wary, after their 1-0 win last Sunday in the major semi-final first leg.

Buoyed because Wolves' record against pedigree, that is top six, sides this season has been less than impressive. In this context the win was not only a breakthrough but also a massive confidence boost.

Wary because of the looming 'lambs to the slaughter' atmosphere that awaits them at the cauldron of Subiaco Oval. Perhaps Nick T will take his fighters to see Russell Crowe's new movie *Gladiator*?

Just a handful of Wolves fans will be drowned out by a cacophony of Glory support that will aim to

intimidate and psyche out. And when it's 43,000 it can be very, very intimidating, particularly if it goes to penalties (just ask Arsenal after their Galatasaray loss in the UEFA Cup.)

Wary also because in the back of their minds will be nagging thoughts about their finishing on Sunday. It could have easily been three or four, yet they must rely on just one goal.

And even that was a penalty.

The beauty of Perth is that the mind games will begin the moment the inspirational Matt Horsley leads Wolves out of the plane at Perth airport. The game will be endlessly discussed on radio, TV, Press, even the taxi drivers - always a good indicator of public support - will be talking Stange and Glory.

Wolves simply won't be able to hide from the fact that all of WA will be willing Stange's men onto victory and for them too, a first ever grand final.

Will this atmosphere work in Wolves' favour? Who knows. But the 'Glory Experience' is a piquant dish - one to savour yet it has left many with a distinctly sour taste in their mouths (Marconi and Adelaide City in the 1999 finals?)

Hyperbole aside the key men for me will be in midfield. Glory's Soccerroo Troy Halpin may be coming back from injury but he simply must play, at least for sixty minutes. His work-rate, set piece skills, link play and composure give Glory that extra edge in bossing the vital midfield. And the Novocastrian would love nothing more than to beat his former club Newcastle's steel city rivals.

Then there's the precocious talent of Ivan 'DJ Ergo' Ergic.

Continued page two

NSL finals series

Australia's most authoritative coverage of the games played plus in-depth previews of this weekend.

Jimmy Patikas exclusive

The great Soccerroo (right) talks with Roger Sleeman
Matildas striker Alicia Ferguson plus free
tickets to the SFS triple-header on June 2



'Bugsy' Maloney

Well, the finals are over for Marconi, which you probably already know! I'd like to wish Carlton the best for the rest of their campaign, they are a tough side who will give Sydney Olympic a very stern test this Sunday.

It certainly will be a clash of styles and physiques. Carlton is physically strong and tall, particularly at the back, but Olympic have so many skilful, smaller ball players.

It should be well worth seeing although I am leaning towards Carlton; they are such a powerful unit.

I also like Perth Glory which is a very attacking side that also has such a massive support.

It will be very difficult for any visiting team to win in Perth. The crowd is probably worth a goal or two.

Going back to last Friday night's game against Carlton at Olympic Park, it was a game I thought we were always chasing. Obviously we knew we needed to score two goals so that meant the pressure was on us.

Once they scored it made it that much harder for us.

And yes, I should have scored before their first goal by Simon Colosimo. It was just one of those

things, the keeper spread himself well and in fact if I had the chance again I wouldn't do a lot differently.

That's football I guess but I'm still disappointed about that because I hit it as well as I could have.

Certainly if we had got an early goal we would have been in the box seat, but all credit to them, they were the better team on the night and really dominated proceedings.

Yes Marconi has been a little inconsistent this year but I'm sure that next season we will come back stronger than ever.

I'd also like to thank the fans at Marconi for giving us such wonderful support and we look forward to seeing you back at Marconi Stadium for the new season.

I'd also like to congratulate Marconi's youth team which has qualified for the Northern Division

Grand Final after defeating Northern Spirit 1 - 0 at Brandon Park.

Go the Stallions!

Brad Maloney
Marconi and Australia



S-news

Inside Soccer's
Australian news,
stories
and gossip

BOZZA IS COMING:

Inside Soccer spies tell us that both Mark Bosnich and Mark Viduka will be part of the Socceroos squad for the Paraguay games. Other possibilities include: Agostino, Zdrilic, Murphy, Tiatto, Okon (c), Emerton, Mendez, Cardozo, Kalac, Casserty, Maloney, Popovic, Horvat, Zane, Blatsis, Bolton, Chipperfield, Aurelio Vidmar, Veart, Lazaridis, Laybutt, Foster. The squad will be trimmed to about 20 at some point. The games will be held on 9/12/15 June. Tickets for the tour are also available from the NSW Fed, with group tickets being sold for those who want to get together and cheer for Farina's side.

PETER STONE:

WHERE ARE YOU?

With the Olympic draw coming up on June 3 in Sydney organisers are trying to contact some of the 1956 Olympic team players. One they still have not found is PETER STONE. He would be in his 60s now and he may have played for Bankstown in NSW. Anyone who knows anything about this person, can they contact Ted Smith on 03 9791 3688.

CARLTON: LOWEST FINAL CROWD FOR SIX YEARS

Carlton's 3,236 on Friday night in their second leg elimination final was the lowest finals crowd since the 1993/94 elimination final at Parramatta Stadium, when Parra Eagles hosted Wollongong Wolves in front of a measly 1,996.

YOUNG FALCON FACES UP TO DIABETES

Literally hundreds of thousands of Australians have diabetes. One of them is NSL player, Gippsland Falcons' Robbie Puca. Up until the last part of the season the 20-year-old did not realise he had it, but his extreme tiredness - which had seen his form drop off in the latter part of the season - alerted Falcons team officials and he was diagnosed shortly after. Home in Perth after leaving Gippsland before the final game of the season, the good news is that the likeable Falcon is now almost 100% fit again and raring to go. "It shows that you can live a normal life with Diabetes when treated with insulin," said Puca. He is off to Italy in June for trials with Roma and other Italian clubs. He also won an achievement award at Falcons this year. Ironically his childhood sporting hero was cricketer Geoff Marsh, an Australian test player who also has Diabetes.

WE REMEMBER 'TAFY' EVANS

Ceri Evans was one of New Zealand's great players. Sadly his father, Gwyn

'Taffy' Evans, has passed away. The former Crystal Palace professional died on Waiheke Island, near Auckland last Thursday, after a long illness. He was 64. Widely regarded as one of New Zealand's best soccer imports, Evans snr later became secretary-general of the New Zealand Football Association during the All Whites' 1982 World Cup campaign.

COSMOS TRIO IN QUEENSLAND

Three Canberra players, Robbie Hooker, Glenn Kolpak and Andrew Clarke have signed to play with Queensland XXXX side Bundaberg Waves. English coach Tony Walmsley, speaking with 'Eye on Soccer', he said gates at the club should increase as a result.

WORTHY WIN

Dean Fak has won player of the year at Gippsland Falcons. Players' Player of the Year went to Socceroo Mehmed Durakovic while Young Player of the Year went to the skilful John Hutchinson (see interview with him in IS next week.) The Tony Caprara Achievement award was given to Robbie Puca.

JESS IN ITALY

Spirit's Jess Van Stratten will be trialling in Italy next month. Juventus and Lazio are two ports of call for the Central Coast-born keeper from Northern Spirit.

KOSSIE CRESCENT?

The greats of New South Wales soccer will be honoured on Sunday 2 July when the New South Wales Soccer Federation (NSWSF) launches the streets named after them at Glenwood. As part of the arrangement for the sale of NSWSF land to property developers for a housing estate, the streets were named after soccer players who have represented New South Wales and Australia with distinction. The players are: Atti Abonyi, Graham Arnold, Ray Baartz, Reg Date, John Kosmina, Ron Lord, Manfred Schaefer, Anissa Tann-Darby, John Warren, John Watkiss, Peter Wilson, Charlie Yankos. The launch will take place on the Valentine Gardens estate site office, Charlie Yankos Street, Glenwood on Sunday 2 July at 11.00am. For further inquiries, contact NSWSF Marketing and Media office on 9629 1800.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MELISSA MUSCAT

One of S-news' favourite chix is Mel M. She is turning 21 tomorrow, so from everyone have a great day and night and please, try to stay away from the Bacardi Breezers!

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PRICE \$3.00

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Photography: Allsport, Joe Palos, Brett Klucznik, Matt Curtis, Michael Cronin

Publisher: Inside Soccer Pty Ltd
A.C.N. 088 107 822

Printing: Apex Printers Arncliffe NSW Tel: (02) 9597 6866

Distribution: Wrapaway, Marrickville NSW Tel: (02) 9550 1622

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For Wolves they will look again to the shaven-head of their spiritual leader Matt Horsley. He showed on Sunday that he is truly inspirational, playing with a slight knee injury he was up and down the right flank like an 18-year-old on debut.

Yet if he is down the side is down, such is his hold on the psyche of the side. Stange will be hoping that Captain Wolves spends more of his time chasing back players like Edwards. Expect Glory to exploit the right side of Wolves' back two thirds in the hope that Horsley is dragged back, and for Halpin to be making dangerous angled runs from deep. Naven will be told to keep Chipperfield from turning and running at the big Glory defenders.

As for David Cervinski, this 'Mullet Amulet' knows all about the big finals games. He may not be steeped in south

coast soccer history (yet) but he will be vital in repelling what should be an onslaught, particularly in that first frenetic 20 minutes when Glory will be going all out to land some heavy hits.

And in the coaching ranks the international experience of Stange - a good 15 years older than Theodorakopoulos - will be used to maximum benefit.

Wolves will need to keep their composure and focus on the day if they are to see this one through. Perhaps wearing Manchester United's shirt will be a talisman for success? If not, it's another home game against the powerful quality of a Carlton or Olympic, then, if they're lucky, a grand final.

Would they have the strength to overcome Glory in Perth after that? That's why this tie is absolutely vital to them and the south coast.

Carlton lies in wait for exciting Olympic

Greg Blake previews the minor semi-final

Perth's got the razzle-dazzle final; an expected ground record at Subiaco Oval on Saturday as much the story as the re-match with Wollongong City.

But Sunday's Minor Semi Final in Melbourne offers a seductive match-of-the-series potential, despite an Olympic Park crowd perhaps a mere one-tenth that of Perth's.

Both Stallion and Zebra left as road-kill, either Carlton or Sydney Olympic will walk away from this one only two weeks from a grand final; no second chances; no aggregate scores nor away goals; no tomorrows.

Just 90 minutes of footy. Carlton is very hot; as was the Adelaide City team Olympic toe-tagged in their eliminator.

Carlton's defence is now ranked NSL number one; they inherited the mantle from a Zebra outfit cut to ribbons by committed and vengeful Olympic's six goals.

Re-invented, reconstituted and regurgitated over the course of a marathon regular season, Olympic's current incarnation re-lit the flame in the nick of time.

At one time seemingly shifting deckchairs on a post-iceberg 'Titanic', coach Branko Culina has luxuriated in the glow of a near full list, with guns like Baillie, Mendez, Thomas and Juric all back in tandem after missing chunks of the campaign.

Spice up the mid-season chart-toppers with Perosh and finals talisman, Marusic, and Olympic appears to be

regaining the irrepressible bounce which hinted at minor premiership material from December through January.

But the jury is still out on Olympic, bearing in mind this team came within a week of coughing up a top six place before a late burst in the last game to sink wooden-spooners, Sydney United, shored up their place.

The Adelaide romp may have loosened some psychological shackles, but forget last Friday night's win against the Tobin and Costanzo-less Croweaters.

Adelaide Force's parade had been washed out well and truly in Olympic's blistering 90-minutes at Belmore one week before.

Emerton-inspired and splendid as they were in that game, it still may be an heroic one-off, rather than a harbinger of things to come.

Carlton's current mood suggests a more thorough exam, although Culina appears un-flustered by the sudden-death road trip.

"If there was a side outside the top two who could go all the way - other than us - it was Adelaide City," he offered during Friday night's post-game.

"Now that we've overcome Adelaide I think we can go all the way."

Perhaps a mere oversight by Culina, but curiously omitting any reference to a Stuart Munro-coached team which is gathering significant momentum.

Clinically churning out an 8-1-1 run into this weekend, Carlton's garnish is a near perfect defensive record of five clean sheets and a mere single goal conceded

in their last 540 minutes of game time.

All sleek lines and precision engineering, Carlton hasn't looked like losing for the past two months, nor would they have spoiled the current streak had it not been for the 20-minute aneurysm which cost them three goals, some dignity and a loss to South Melbourne in the 5-3 round 30 spectacular.

Although not necessarily the key to the safe, Simon Colosimo still lights the path to the treasure chest for his teammates.

All instinct, intuition, vision and touch, Colosimo spent maybe 20 minutes demoralising Marconi last Friday night, leaving his teammates to make the kill and pick the bones.

Match fitness prevents more than explosive bursts, but his contribution has elevated Carlton from top six certainty towards genuine grand final consideration.

With the gifts of Mendez and Cardozo orchestrating the cavalry charges Olympic plays with grand style.

Yet, with the fresh scalps of Wollongong, Perth and Marconi now dangling from the belt, Carlton is waiting.



Olympic will be hoping the talismanic Kresimir Marusic will get them over the toughest of hurdles: Carlton, the number one defensive side, in Melbourne on Sunday.

*Inside Soccer's comprehensive coverage of the weekend's finals games is on pages 10 to 15.

Pressure cooker atmosphere the key

Arlo White previews the major semi-final second leg

"I don't bloody believe it mate," sighed one exasperated Wollongong Wolves fanatic ahead of me as we descended the stairs of Brandon Park's main stand. "How we didn't win that game two or three nil I'll never know."

Although this post game pundit was as one-eyed as they come, I counted a total of seven angry looking Wolves in their various red apparel. You could sense between the lines a fear that Stuart Young's solitary strike just won't be enough to take across the Nullarbor against the Minor Premiers.

But maybe, just maybe, it won't be as simple as that.

One of the major factors weighing heavily against the Wolves at the onset of this Finals series was their regular season malaise against fellow top six rivals. In plundering an NSL record 72 goals, the South Coasters had regularly gorged on the league's fodder, but consistently failed when pitted against the cream.

That little demon has now been exorcised. The Wolves should take great confidence from their victory over Stange's accomplished Perth, and even more from the fact that with more composed and lethal finishing from the usually rampant Young, Petrovski and Masi, the Glory could well have been on the wrong end of a

Wollongong walloping.

The key factor in the outcome of the second leg though, will be how both sets of players handle one particular, exceptional situation. That is the butterfly-inducing prospect of a cavernous Subiaco Oval rocking to the tune of 43,000 Glory fans, baying for a first Grand Final appearance.

Now they say that Perth is used to playing in front of big crowds, but 43,000? The intoxicating atmosphere will be like nothing any of these players have experienced, and my advice to Messrs. Stange and Theodorakopoulos is stock up on the anti-freeze midweek - a crowd of that size could wobble the knees of the most battle hardened NSL veteran.

Can that level of fanatical support carry Perth through to the big show on a wave of passion and emotion, or will the Glory wilt under the sheer weight of expectation?

I can hardly wait to find out.

It's an occasion for heroes, calm heads, and a platform that could lift the NSL on the whole into a completely new stratosphere.

Whoever comes through victorious, it'll be an afternoon none of these players will ever forget.



The Matildas, World Champs USA plus China & more @ the SFS June 2

and you can get free tickets!



Contact Leone or Helen at the NSW Soccer Federation on 02 9629 1800 or info@soccernsw.com.au



GREG BLAKE
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No nomination for Carlton's Dave McPherson, but otherwise few surprises in the final list of five players in contention for this season's Warren Medal.

You can argue cases for and against most of the contenders getting over the line: 'Chi Chi' Mendez was influential but missed a bit of footy through injury; little John Buanovoglia was Newcastle's top target man but only still a cog in a decidedly team-oriented Birmingham Gardens wheel; Scott Chipperfield had a career year but will be battling to get votes ahead of any number of other hot-shot Wolves teammates; Damian Mori iced a record-breaking career with another avalanche of goals, but he wasn't the best going around in 1999/2000.

For mine, that leaves Pablo Cardozo as the standout candidate.

Always a player who could make your heart sing, he rarely missed a beat for Olympic this year with as consistent a full season as he's put together in this league.

Cardozo scored some beauties, made plenty of others and showed the leadership qualities his team desperately needed when it appeared Olympic's season might be on its way around the s-bend.

Brett Emerton should win his second Papasavas Medal for best under 21 player, ahead of Perth rookie Ivan Ergic and Carlton's Archie Thompson, who really started to hit some form in the back half of the campaign.

Ergic is something special and one for the future, but he did plenty of bench time this year and got towelled more than once as his fame began preceding him around the nation.

As for best coach, who the hell knows how the league coaching brotherhood will see it. On the numbers Perth's Bernd Stange's the man; Nick Theodorakopoulos conjured the most remarkable boiled lollies to chockies story and Lee Sterrey was on a minor miracle had he taken Newcastle's no-names one further rung on the ladder.

As for as the big night itself, when they actually hand out the silverware, I once again truly hope for the best but fear for the worst.

What should be a pure celebration of and for the league's stars has, in recent years, increasingly been overrun by blossoming numbers of back-slappers, number-crunchers, vaguely familiar club affiliates, unknown hangers-on and all manner of obscure species from parts unknown.

Some never see an NSL game and others don't even know if soccer balls are pumped up or stuffed.

It has truly become the night the big knobs hang way out.

Could Soccer Australia please ditch the bizarre carnival concept in favor of allowing as many players, coaching staffers and match officials as possible to make the evening, thus returning the NSL awards night to its rightful owners.

What could a Perth team possibly offer the NSL? declared former NSL chairman, the late Sam Papasavas, in the early 1990's.

Sure, it's not the only bad call made by an ASF/Soc.Aus. know-it-all over the years, but every time Perth Glory makes another base hit in this league I can't avoid a quiet titter.

As Perth prepares for a ground

record and NSL record crowd of around 43,000 at Subiaco for the visit of Wollongong this weekend we reflect on the league's official stance on a WA-based club back then and wonder if soccer's decision makers ever got anything more wrong.

Speaking of getting it well wrong, got some lovely first-person, horsesh-mouth-type gossip from a good mate and career ABC employee recently.

Again it falls into the retrospective 'what were we thinking' category, but it seems that at one point in the early to mid-1990s the NSL might have been considered favourably by ABC Radio as the perfect summer replacement for its winter footy coverage of either AFL or rugby league.

I'm told what might have resulted in Australia-wide weekend radio calls of NSL games through the national broadcaster was put on hold "until soccer gets its act together".

My source tells me that the in-house allies we might have once had have long since flown the coop, along with our chances of getting a look-in.



Matt Horsley: Wolves' shining light.

But hey, at least we're still getting our act together.

It's been a marvellous season for who'd have thunk it.

My bookie - let's just call him Bastard - reckons he made a killing on NSL punting this season.

According to him he wasn't aware of a single punter in the country getting a return on wagers based on predicting the top six, with most of the money lost on the likes of South Melbourne, Northern Spirit and Parramatta Power.

This summer was the first time in league history when at least one of the previous season's grand finalists didn't go back to the big end-of-season dance.

And although Sydney United were always going to struggle after having their guts ripped out by Power, there wasn't a pre-season tipster in the country who didn't include Parramatta or South Melbourne - mostly both - in the pre-season tips.

Amongst an absolute plethora of statistical stunners this year, I like the one offered by the Carlton supporter who pinpointed this about the club's much-publicised 'Brit-Pack'.

While combining for some 50 games, attacking midfielder Stuart Slater

and gun goalscorer Mike Conroy managed goose-eggs between them during the regular season, big 'Slim' McPherson jagged six in his 30 regular season games as a defender.

Said bookie says he'd have offered better than 50's on that before the first game of the season.

Despite the re-appearance of a couple of red cards on finals opening weekend it must be said that on behalf of thousands of die-hard NSL supporters we thank the Grand Poobah of referees, Gary Power, and all his officials for allowing some sanity back into the league over the course of season 1999/2000.

Somewhere around mid-season it was obviously noted that the red card count of 58 and rising suggested that NSL competition was being played with a homicidal frenzy.

Fewer than half that number of red cards - 26 in fact - were brandished from rounds 19 onwards as the refs and players seemed to find a balance which was enough to leave us all warm and cuddly inside.

Apart from the odd grunt from the same familiar faces who'd probably grizzle over a Lotto win, you'll note that the crescendo of noise which was publicly savaging the whistle-blowers petered out when the even hand of on-field justice returned and allowed the boys to play some footy.

Important milestones recently passed by two players for whom I have the upmost respect and admiration.

Marconi's larger-than-life Francis Awaritefe posted his 300th NSL game on opening weekend of the finals, becoming the 33rd player in NSL history to achieve such and only the fifth to reach 300 games/100 goals status.

Opponents and officials might argue that his most offensive weapon is often his mouth, but his goals and games record achieved at successful clubs like the Knights and South Melbourne is a beauty.

While Awaritefe is a great character, Wollongong's Matty Horsley boasts plenty of the same.

A Wollongong player since debut, he has often been the club's only shining light during the tough seasons past, and a rarity as well having not been lured away from Brandon Park as a cluster of other south coast champs have been before him.

Great then to see Horsley get the opportunity to captain his club in final last weekend, as he celebrated 250 NSL games in front of that Brandon Park 'wall of noise'.

Ihope that there is a solution to the quandary of which team will represent Australia at the next World Club Championships.

Assuming that the new competition will go ahead bi-annually, as currently planned, which team gets the nod should the next two NSL titles be shared by different clubs?

While a one-off play-off situation between the championship-winning teams appears the obvious solution, it's a tough call on this season's title-winners in as much as so very much can change at a club over a 12-month span.

Let's say Wollongong does win it all this year, but several top-liners get spotted by other clubs, coach Nick Theodorakopoulos does go to South Melbourne and one or two kids head overseas.

By the time of a play-off the Wolves might be a mere shadow of the current



Francis Awaritefe: NSL 300-gamer.

team, thus not giving the club much chance at all of capping their achievement by a trip to the big show.

When should we schedule such a play-off?

Do we play home and away or find a neutral venue? Has anybody upstairs considered the options?

Just another reminder to all the starry-eyed young kids hell-bent on heading overseas to ply their trade just as they hit puberty that all is not footy, stardom and all its trappings.

Even some of our more pedigreed exports will tell you the grass isn't quite as green as they'd hoped.

"It's crap...I hated it," said one recently-returned NSL star, who spent some nine months in Europe.

"I honestly couldn't wait to get back home."

"It was a mistake going in the first place and I'd think twice before I'd do it again."

Acouple of Carlton die-hards wanted to play 'spank the Blakey' (admittedly a little game I can warm to in the right company) after I ripped their club over the issue of televised games a week or two back.

Carlton GM, Jerome Lyford, has also had me stricken from the Christmas list for that story, stating emphatically that Carlton "is not anti-TV."

"We are totally supportive of television and of what C7 is trying to do," he told me.

"We want to be on television as much as we can but as far as that game was concerned (the round 34 home game versus Wollongong) there were exceptional circumstances."

Lyford said that because all final round games were bound by league regulations to be played at 5pm, the club's concern was that getting people into Olympic Park would be difficult enough at that time even without the pull of live TV.

"Knowing the problems (with traffic) around the precinct and with an AFL crowd coming out across the road at 4:45pm it was going to be difficult," he explained.

"If they knew that they could stay at home and watch the game on TV they might well have taken that option."

"But I can assure you that we wouldn't have argued about the cameras coming in had the game been at 7pm."

Fair enough, although it must be pointed out that even sans cameras there were no riot police required to organise the crowd of 1,700 which turned out for the only all-top six clash of that final round.

I voted for Nick T says Stange

By Brett Klucznik

Perth Glory have received three nominations in the end of season NSL awards to be held at the ANA Hotel in Sydney on Friday 16 June.

Coach Bernd Stange, one-time Socceroo goalkeeper Jason Petkovic and exciting teenager Ivan Ergic are all in the running to scoop major league honours.

Stange is one of three nominees for the Coach of the Year. "It's great news for the club - I am very proud," said Stange of his nomination.

Surprisingly, the former East German national team coach has never won a coaching award. "They never had such a thing in East Germany. It is good to be nominated. It means my way has been accepted in Australia by my colleagues. To do this after only two years here makes me proud."

The other coaching nominees are Nick Theodorakopoulos (Wollongong Wolves) and Lee Sterrey (Newcastle Breakers).

With the award voted on by the NSL coaches, Stange has revealed he had put forward Theodorakopoulos' name. "What Nick (pictured) has done is amazing with limited resources, and he's only part-time," said Stange.

Petkovic is in the running for the Goalkeeper of the Year. He joined Glory late in November after spending five years with Adelaide City and has had a superb season.

He is the frontrunner to take out the award, which he also landed in the 1997-98 season, in a field which features Clint Bolton (Brisbane Strikers) and veteran Bobby Catlin (Newcastle Breakers).

Ergic has the chance to cap a stunning rookie season in the competition by lifting the Under-21

Player of the Year trophy.

The 19-year old was working his way through a soccer scholarship at the AIS this time last year and was surprised by the news that he could land a personal award in his break-through season.

"That's made my day," said Ergic, who has bagged nine goals and chalked up a string of impressive efforts this season.

His rivals for the award are Olyroo captain Brett Emerton of Sydney Olympic and Carlton striker Archie Thompson.

Of the four categories, the only one in which Glory failed to gain a nomination is the Players' Player of the Year where the contenders are John Buonavoglia (Newcastle Breakers), Pablo Cardozo (Sydney Olympic), Scott Chipperfield (Wollongong Wolves), Gabriel Mendez (Sydney Olympic) and Damian Mori (Adelaide City Force).

Glory captain Gareth Naven has been outstanding and there have already been questions from many quarters as to why he has been overlooked.



New guard want a say at South Melb

By Alan Clark

Three young members of the South Melbourne Supporters' Group have launched their campaign for positions on the South Melbourne Board, with the matter to be decided at the Melbourne club's Annual General Meeting on 28 May.

Peter Katsidimas (25, a civil engineer), Andrew Dye (32, a market researcher), and Leo Athanasakis (34, a financial advisor) aim to bring fresh ideas to a Board which they say has operated without formal elections for twelve years.

"The present Board has undoubtedly done a fantastic job in achieving the success that it has, notably the back to back Championships," said Katsidimas.

"However, everyone can only contribute so much and we feel that an injection of fresh blood will provide a vital kick-start towards further success."

"From the outside, it's difficult to avoid the perception that the club is merely treading water, rather than actively competing with clubs like Perth Glory and Northern Spirit," observed Dye.

"They may have geographical advantages over South Melbourne, but they have set the benchmark which other NSL clubs must match."

"My background in the financial sector gives me a keen eye for accounts and trading statements," added Athanasakis.

"The club has retained the same auditors for over twenty years, which can't be a healthy situation."

"Equally, I'd like to see a more ambitious approach to marketing and promotions, enabling the club to build on the windfall from the Club World Championships."

South Melbourne's AGM is to be held starting at 11:00 am on Sunday 28 May at the club's Bob Jane Stadium, Albert Park.

"From the outside, it's difficult to avoid the perception that the club is merely treading water, rather than actively competing with clubs like Perth Glory and Northern Spirit."

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Push on for second Perth side

By Brett Klucznik

According to *The West Australian* newspaper, Perth is almost certain to have a second team in the NSL come the season after next.

To date two organisations - Soccer West Coast and Fremantle City - are believed to be involved in bidding for the second licence in W.A., but expect a couple more interested parties to raise their hands as the time approaches.

NSL general manager Stefan Kamasz has made it clear that decisions on the 2001/2002 season will not be made until December.

Soccer WestCoast (S.W.C.), the

local governing body, in partnership with a group of Perth businessmen, has already lodged a submission to the NSL.

While S.W.C. have bathed in the success of Perth Glory, the body has also been critical that the club do not do their part in promoting soccer in general in Perth.

One particular sticking point has been Glory's willingness to sign players from interstate and/or overseas rather than picking from the talent playing in the State League.

David Schrandt, President of S.W.C., has said that he is confident his association's bid would stand up. "It is a very good submission, a lot of hard work has gone

into it, and we are optimistic about its chances of being accepted," he said.

While Schrandt refused to reveal details of the bid, it is believed S.W.C. will have a 20% share with the remainder being covered by some prominent Perth businessmen.

He said the stakeholders of the game in W.A. deserved a presence in the national competition and that the consortium would lean heavily on using local players and developing talented youngsters.

Fremantle City have been one of the states most consistent sides over the past few years but are yet to win a major trophy in W.A. They have built up a strong

squad which combines the experience of Dave Evans, Paul McVittie and Trim Morgan with the youthful exuberance of Gary Faria, Christian Pascherwitz and Michael Lipman.

Currently sitting in second place in the State League after six games, it is expected that a syndicate representing the club will also bid on entry into the NSL. City president John Da Luz would not comment on his club's proposed move for the licence.

Part of Glory's entry into the League in 1996 was a five-year moratorium on the granting of the second W.A. license.

That agreement expires at the end of next season and the Australian soccer hierarchy are known to be keen to admit another team from Perth to take advantage of the growing following the sport has in the west.

With the league set to undergo a major re-structure for the 2001/2002 season, the emphasis looks like being on offering team places to franchises.

And the interested W.A. parties will have to be cashed up in order to meet the NSL's new criteria. It's already been made clear to sides that come the re-structure applicants will be required to have a working capital of at least \$3 million, and will need to generate an additional minimum revenue of \$1.5 million in the first season.

There is also need for clubs to have full-time staff in the areas of general manager, financial controller, media/public relations, and marketing, a playing venue of accepted NSL standard and a minimum of \$750,000 in sponsorship coffers.

But allowing a second W.A. team into the NSL for season 2001/2002 would be ill-timed according to many in Perth's soccer circles.

KLUCZNIK'S KOMMENT

While Glory are averaging home gates of around 12,000 - and look like attracting around 43,000 to this week's finals game - the overall support for soccer simply isn't big enough to support two NSL teams at the current time.

In fact many State League teams, including Fremantle City who are themselves one of the bigger clubs, rarely draw crowds over 300.

The most widely espoused scenario sees the new club crippled by the financial burdens of the NSL after only a season or two.

Simply by being the new kids on the block, their profile would not be as great as Glory's and with that comes smaller crowds and fewer sponsorship dollars to play with.

It would not be unreasonable to think they would also have a weaker squad than Glory and it is widely believed that a new club would struggle to build a core following of die-hard supporters after

Glory's recent successes.

It should be pointed out that the Fremantle Dockers are still considered the poorer cousins of the West Coast Eagles in the A.F.L. - a second Perth side would suffer the same fate only on a much larger scale as soccer has nowhere near the following of that sport in W.A.

And what happens if the club goes through a prolonged period of poor performances on the park, how long could a second NSL side based in Perth survive with plummeting attendances?

Glory are well and truly established as Perth's premier soccer club but the introduction of a new team could have dire consequences for the minor premier also.

There have been concerns expressed that Glory's current fanbase would be split down the middle, half staying with the club and the rest following the new side in backlash to the general ill-feeling towards Glory co-owner Nick Tana.

As is the case with all sporting teams based in W.A., their transportation

and accommodation costs are far greater than their eastern states counter-parts and the question is: would Glory, with an annual operating budget of around \$4.5 million, etc be able to survive on crowds of 6,000-8,000?

On a brighter note, the W.A. State Government look set to finally move on the construction of the purpose-built rectangular stadium for soccer they have promised for the better part of four years.

The new venue would be used by Perth Glory as their permanent home ground, and should a second Perth-based side be permitted entry into the League, it is envisioned they too would utilise the ground.

With several inner city locations already ear-marked as potential sites for the development, an official announcement is expected within the month.

Glory hope to be playing their home games at the new stadium in time for the 2001/2002 season.

Glory transfer news

By Brett Klucznik

It's been a fortnight of double disappointment for Perth Glory on the transfer front. The signing of South Melbourne duo Michael Curcija and Steve Iosifidis looked to be virtually in the bag, but some last minute movements threw both deals into doubt.

Curcija late last week signed a three year agreement with Glory - all that was still to be done was for the deal to be rubber-stamped by the club's board.

The 22-year-old was at the time on trial with Partizan Belgrade and agreed to join Glory only if his time in Yugoslavia did not bear fruit.

Partizan officials apparently have been impressed with the young striker and are expected to offer him a contract.

Glory GM Roger Lefort said he had not heard from Curcija or his manager about a deal with Partizan but an offer would not be out of the blue.

"It will come as no great surprise because he is a very good player," Lefort said.

There were also strong indications last week Iosifidis would also be joining Glory. Friday saw Glory co-owner Nick Tana announce the defender had indeed signed an agreement to join the minor premier - South Melbourne president George Vasilopoulos confirmed that same day that

Iosifidis had walked out on his club in favour of a move west.

Vasilopoulos went on to launch a bitter attack on players and their agents about disloyalty to their clubs.

Less than 24 hours later Iosifidis backed out of the proposed move to Perth and signed a new three-year deal to stay with South Melbourne.

"It's disappointing that when someone agrees to terms and makes a commitment to come over, someone at the (other) club convinces him to stay," Lefort said.

Lefort, Bernd Stange and assistant coach Mich d'Avray met earlier in the week to discuss players they wish to line-up in Glory colours next season.

But, on the eve of a finals campaign, the club is reluctant to reveal details.

It is believed Carlton defender Craig Deans - himself a former Glory player - is one possible target, while there are rumours that others include striker Pablo Cardozo (Sydney Olympic), and defender Robert Liparoti (South Melbourne).

One player Glory have made clear they will target is three times NSL leading scorer Damian Mori.

Out of contract at the end of the

month, the club have already approached Mori but negotiations have been put on ice for the duration of the top six play-offs.

The striker played a lone hand to revive Adelaide City Force's flagging fortunes this season, a fact not lost on coach Zoran Matic. "At the start of the season Damian was isolated up front and had nowhere to go," he said.

Meanwhile Troy Halpin's season is back on track having recovered sufficiently from a knee injury suffered against his former club Newcastle Breakers in April.

Scans on the former Socceroo's left knee at the time revealed a torn medial ligament which doctors expected to keep him out of action for the remainder of the season.

But a five session-a-day regime consisting of pool, gymnasium and beach work has seen the 26-year-old (pictured left) resume full training with Glory, only a month after

suffering the injury.

"I'm surprised how quickly I've got to the point where I feel I can play," he said. "I've been cleared by the doctors and the



Damian Mori: the most wanted man in Australia is wanted by the glamour NSL club Perth Glory.

physio, they think everything's come along well."

Halpin has looked sharp at training, which is encouraging for all concerned.

The Bold and the Beautiful Alicia Ferguson

By Aidan Ormond

At six she was playing boys soccer with her brother; by 13 she was a member of the QAS women's side; she made her Matildas debut at 15; played in the 1999 World Cup at 17, and now, at 18, is poised to play in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. And to complete the rise to fame, this one-time tomboy has been named by *Who Weekly* magazine as one of the most beautiful people in the world!

Alicia Ferguson grew up in Cairns (Frank Farina territory) the youngest of five kids, before moving to Brisbane, playing for Mt Gravatt and the QAS. The striker then joined the AIS two years ago, aged 16.

So it should be no surprise that Ferguson - a name synonymous with footballing excellence - comes from good soccer stock. One of her Scottish great grandfathers played for Queensland. In fact he played at the Gabba against China. Ironically his great grand daughter is also set to play China, this time in the Pacific Cup at the SFS on June 2.

"Any time we play China it's enjoyable because we like the way they play. And the Americans have proved they are number one, but we could give them a bit of a fright in the upcoming Pacific Cup," she says with quiet confidence.

1997 was her breakthrough year. She made her Matildas debut as a 15-year-old against Hungary in Csakvar as part of a European tour. "I was alongside players who were so well-known it was quite an experience," she says.



Alicia Ferguson gets a red card against China at World Cup 99. The Matildas play China at the SFS on June 2 with the USA playing in the earlier game. Inset is Ferguson playing for the Matildas in the 1999 Australia Cup.

1997 was also the year she won the inaugural Ansett Summer Series with the QAS.

She now has 20 caps with five goals to her name. Some of those caps came in last year's World Cup.

"On the whole it (the World Cup) was the most amazing event," was how Ferguson describes it. This was a tournament that broke through the media barriers to give the women's game a profile previously unheard of.

It also made the US side very famous, and very rich.

"Everywhere you looked there was something about it ... it made you feel very special just to be a part of it," recalls the teenage Matilda.

Ferguson's red card was the only disappointing part of the World Cup for her. In a tackle that was replayed on channel ten's 'The Panel', the Matilda was sent-off after one minute for a challenge on a Chinese player she says looked a lot worse than it really was. "I hardly even touched," she says with genuine exasperation.

"She saw me coming and kind of jumped. I was dumbfounded when the ref pulled out the red. It was funny because I played China later in the year and I got a yellow card."

Alicia Ferguson 'The Animal' hardly fits her public image. In fact she works as a tour guide at the AIS in her spare time and counts her parents and five siblings as being an important part of her success. "I'm very close to all my family."

To play full-time football is, understandably, a dream come true for the player who says she wants to play in the next two or three World Cups and

Olympics. "It's a big change from part-time training in Queensland. With all the training we do at the AIS, the side is more fluent and we are becoming more knowledgeable. Certainly since the Australia Cup we are much stronger."

This Thursday the squad will be named for the Pacific Cup. It's also the same day the USA arrives. Australia's Olympic squad will be announced on June 18.

"We could get in the top four or three at the Olympics. Some of the better teams could get a shock when we come out and trounce them! No one says we can get a medal so we have to be confident ourselves."

Next year she is hopeful of playing in the USA College system. There is also the US pro league, which is likely to be a

sort of de-facto world league. "Of course to play for Australia is still my top priority. When you put on the green and gold it's an amazing feeling," she says on the issue of club v country.

And with the nude calendar, the TV commercial and the *Who Weekly* feature, Alicia Ferguson, and Australian women's soccer, is riding the crest of a wave in terms of its profile. But Ferguson is able to put it all into perspective.

"It's good to finally get recognized. I think now we have more expectations on us ... it's unbelievable how many people now know us, so we have to show them results on the field."

"I was so flattered with the *Who Weekly* thing. I'm probably not the most beautiful person around!" she says with her footballing feet firmly on the ground.

Alicia Ferguson:

Position: Forward
Height: 165cm
Weight: 63kg
Date of birth: 31/10/81
Hometown: Brisbane
National League side: QAS Sting
Nickname: 'Eesh'

Pacific Cup itinerary

ROUND ONE - CANBERRA

WEDNESDAY 31 MAY 2000

AIS Athletics Arena

2.00 pm Canada v New Zealand

Bruce Stadium

5.00 pm USA v China

7.30 pm Australia v Japan

ROUND TWO - SYDNEY

FRIDAY 2 JUNE 2000

Sydney Football Stadium

3.00 pm Japan v New Zealand

5.30 pm USA v Canada

8.00 pm Australia v China

ROUND THREE - CAMPBELLTOWN

SUNDAY 4 JUNE 2000

Campbelltown Sports Stadium, Sydney

12.00 pm Japan v China

2.30 pm USA v New Zealand

5.00 pm Australia v Canada

ROUND FOUR - NEWCASTLE

WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2000

Hunter Athletics Centre, Newcastle

3.00 pm Australia v New Zealand

THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2000

Breakers Stadium

3.30 pm China v Canada

6.00 pm USA v Japan

ROUND FIVE - NEWCASTLE

SATURDAY 10 JUNE 2000

Hunter Athletics Centre, Newcastle

12.00 pm Canada v Japan

2.30 pm China v New Zealand

SUNDAY 11 JUNE 2000

Breakers Stadium

2.30 pm Australia v USA



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AUSSIES on the world stage

Jason Culina Ajax and Olyroos

Q How do you think Sydney 2000 could change your life and the profile of Australian Soccer?

A This is obviously a remarkable, and a once-in-a-life time opportunity and to have the chance to be a part of it is just fantastic, in fact it's really difficult to explain the feelings and the excitement that come to mind, of not only playing at an Olympics, but in front of your home crowd, it will be just spectacular.

So I can only see positives coming out of the tournament, both personally and for Australian soccer as a whole - it will give Australians the chance not only to see a top quality Australian side in action, but top quality soccer - and that can only do good things for everyone involved in the game here.

Q: Why will the LG Under-23s perform well at Sydney 2000?

A: I really believe that we have a very good team, it's a team where everyone wants to do really well, and is prepared to make any necessary sacrifices to do that.

I think everyone in the

Q Joe Didulica is both a team-mate and an LG Under-23 Team-mate - does it help talking things through with him and having him around?

A Yes, of course it does. I started here at Ajax by myself, and would sometimes think at training that it would be good to have someone alongside me that I knew, who I could share soccer talk with - that's probably been one of the harder parts of adjusting - going from the teams I played with in Australia, where you knew the players so well, and could talk to anyone about anything, to coming here, and having to make a big adjustment.

So yes, I'd say it really has helped me having Joe here, it's really made

things easier and probably more comfortable having him at training, and in Amsterdam basically.

Q How would you describe yourself as a player, and where (and why) do you fit into the LG U-23 squad?

A I see myself as a hardworking, creative midfielder, who is constantly looking to improve because I'll always feel that I can be a better player.

I definitely feel that I give the team an added dimension, I think that all players are different and can therefore bring lots of different aspects to the team, which is an important element.

Q: Is there a particular Olympian who inspires you, and why?

A I'm actually very inspired by the Paralympians. You look at those athletes, and at the hardships that they

have overcome, on one hand you're thinking to yourself how the hell do they do that, and on the other hand, all you can do is encourage, applaud and admire their results ... as a whole, paralympic athletes really inspire me because it takes so much to do what they do, not only physically but mentally too.

*Interview courtesy of Soccer Australia's Olyroo build up.



Way back when: Culina (Sydney Utd) and Wehrman (Strikers) in 1996. They hope to be a part of a 2000 winning Olyroo side.

squad at the moment would give their right arm to be a part of the Olympics, and it's that spirit, plus the fact that our preparation will have us ready, which will hopefully lead to results on the park.

Q What motivates you?

A Getting up in the morning, and knowing that I'm waking up to the best job anyone can have, and how lucky I am to have it, really, that's about it all it takes to motivate me to do well.

Skoko starring

by Roy Hay

Former North Geelong star and Soccerroo Josip Skoko has collected his first major soccer trophy as he helped his club side Genk defeat favourite Standard Liege in the Belgian Football Association Cup final in Brussels.

Liege opened the scoring in a scramble in the first minute, but Genk hit back through Croatian striker Zoran Ban in the 20th minute and went on to win by four goals to one.

The victory gives Genk a place in the UEFA Cup next season and Skoko a chance to showcase his talents once again on the top European stage.

His father Ivan, who lives in Bell Park did not know the result until Skoko Jr phoned on Monday morning.

"I could not get back to my apartment near the ground because there were so many people packing the streets," the Soccerroo said. "The celebrations went on all through the night. The stadium was full for the game and people were very excited."

Belgian newspapers named Skoko among the top three players in the final.

Born in Mount Gambier, Skoko came up through the junior ranks at North Geelong and was selected for the Australian Institute of Sport.

He won the Weinstein Medal as the Young Victorian player of the year and was player of the year in the National Youth League.

In 1994 he won the Diabetes Australia Gold Medal for the player of the year in the Victorian Premier League.

The following year he played for the Young Soccerroos in the World Youth Cup in Qatar alongside his friend Mark Viduka, now with Glasgow Celtic, and went on to represent Australia in international tournaments at senior level.

In 1995 he transferred from North Geelong to Hajduk Split in Croatia where he played alongside another former North player Steve Horvat in his first season.

Skoko became captain and playmaker for Hajduk in the Croatian league and in European Cup competitions over the next four years.

Earlier this northern hemisphere season he transferred to Genk in Belgium, then in mid-table in the First Division.

He has quickly established himself as part of the midfield engine-room with his skilful passing, ball control and phenomenal work rate.

It can confidently be expected that he will get an offer to join one of the top clubs in Europe in the near future.



Aussies in Asia/Europe

By Scott O'Donnell in Singapore

Darren Stewart's Balestier Central left it to the last game of the first round to record their first win of the season and it was the big Aussie who scored the only goal of the game to give his team a 1-0 win over Marine Castle.

Stewart, who has been one of the few consistent players in the Balestier line-up this year, scored his goal in the 81st minute to give Marine Castle and their Aussie duo of Michael Garcia and Anthony Carbone their first home loss of the season.

Balestier went into the game with only two foreigners, with their keeper tendering his resignation the day before the game. It was a perfect birthday present for Stewart, who described his win as, "one of the most important of his career". The win still leaves Balestier at the foot of the table but with some hope in the second round.

Ernie Tapai's Home United wasted a perfect opportunity to catch up with the leading pack, when they were held to a 0-0 draw by lowly Woodlands Wellington.

In the top of the table clash, competition leaders SAFFC drew 0-0 with the undefeated Tanjong Pagar. Although there were no goals scored, the real action happened off the pitch where it has been alleged that national team player, Tan Kim Leng was bashed in the common showers by an opposition player. Tan has made a police report and the S.League will await the investigation before taking any action.

Alan Vest's Geylang Eagles were dealt a blow to their championship aspirations when they were beaten 1-0 at home to Jurong. The loss means Jurong leapfrog Geylang into third place and leave Geylang sitting in fourth place.

Mirko Jurilj's Sembawang Rangers remain second from the bottom after their scoreless draw with Gombak United. In the remaining game Tampines got back on the winning trail by easily accounting for Clementi 2-0.

Meanwhile, in Europe a few Aussies were involved in games as the season draws to a close.

In England, the promotion play-offs were the centre of attention, along with the FA Cup, with four Aussies amongst the participants.

In the First Division, Stan Lazaridis came on in the 73rd minute for Birmingham in the second leg game against Barnsley which they won 1-2 but lost overall to be eliminated from the play-offs.

In the second division, Millwall were beaten at Wigan by 1-0 for the same overall result in a game they had to win after a scoreless draw in the first leg.

Lucas Neil was replaced in the 65th minute while Tim Cahill played the full game. Both players were heavily involved in the game with Neil having a claim for a penalty turned down while Cahill spurned a couple of opportunities to score.

Goalkeeper Steve Mautone was the only Aussie to make it through the next stage after Gillingham's 3-0 second leg win over Stoke. Mautone, though, remained on the bench.

Elsewhere in England ex West Aussie Richard Garcia scored a goal for West Ham U19 as they drew 5-5 in the first leg of the the Premier League Academy play-off. Michael Ferrante also played.

In the last round of the Scottish Premier League Tony Vidmar played a full game as Rangers succumbed 2-0 to Motherwell. Craig Moore was still out injured and looks in extreme doubt for next week's Scottish Cup final.

In Germany, both Paul Agostino (above) and Ned Zelic will be gracing the Champions Cup stage next season with their club 1860 Munchen who qualified in fourth place with a last round 1-1 with Kaiserslautern. Both Aussies played a full game.

David Zdrilic, on the other hand, is heading in a different direction as his team, SSV Ulm, failed to win their last game and, as a result, they finished third from bottom and will be playing in the second Bundesliga next season.



JIMMY PATIKAS

Sir Alex and Menotti just two of the Soccerroo's many fans

By Roger Sleeman

At a time when most focus is directed to the NSL play-offs, the State Leagues struggle to attract the lime-light. However, some people generate their own publicity and rise above the obscurity. Jim Patikas, the former Soccerroo, and one of our most successful exports, is one of those characters who will always create excitement in our game.

His decision to finally take the plunge and enter the senior coaching fray, only two and a half months ago at Canterbury-Marrickville, was applauded in all football circles.

His influence has been instrumental in lifting the Berries to a mid table status after they were languishing at the bottom of the table early in the season.

After his retirement as a player in the 1995/96 pre-season, Patikas preferred to remain anonymous in the junior leagues of Canterbury, but the spirit within convinced him that senior football was once again beckoning him to play.

and Europe and his plans for the future.

ROGER SLEEMAN: You signed professional terms with Sydney Hakoah in 1979 at the age of fifteen. Can you recall your experiences at the club and how do you compare the set up with today's NSL?

JIM PATIKAS: Hakoah was the Manchester United of Australian football as every player was treated like a king. I was fortunate to make my debut in that season against Sydney Olympic and was also part of the treble winning NSL championship squads from 1980-1982.

My learning experience at the club was incredible as I absorbed varying facets of the game from different players.

Todd Clarke was a great analyst of

like Barcelona don't wait round for you so the opportunity was lost.

Although I performed creditably during the WYC in Mexico City, including scoring the winning goal against the might of the European champions Scotland, who fielded the likes of Nevin, McStay, McPherson and Malpas, my knee still wasn't 100%.

In football, it's not just about ability, you also need the breaks.

My luck finally arrived when I was offered a contract by AEK of Athens after they saw me play in the second leg of the World Cup tie in Melbourne in November, 1985. If I hadn't performed well in that match, who knows where I would've ended up?

RS: Players from NSL clubs, which have become full professional this season, talk about the difficult adjustment from part time football. Did you experience similar problems when you went to Greece?

JP: The biggest adjustment was in the pace of the game so my fitness levels and speed off the mark had to improve considerably. Of course it does help when you have superior training facilities but the strain of training two to three times a day, five days a week, was certainly nothing like I'd experienced.

It took me six months to fit into the set up at AEK but I also had a great challenge when the coach decided to convert me into a striker. I'd always been played in an attacking midfield role where I'd make attacking raids from the deep so the striking position was new to me.

In that first season I picked up two to three metres in pace but playing as a lone front-runner also had its disadvantages. The defenders stopped me from turning however they could because they knew my speed was lethal and I incurred injuries on a regular basis, particularly to the knees.

However, as a professional you learn to endure pain with the help of pain killers.

RS: You had nine successful years in Greece with AEK and Aithnikos? Do you regret not playing in other parts of Europe?

JP: After I'd been at AEK for two seasons, the Yugoslav coach of AEK moved to Bologna. He indicated he would like me to go there but nothing happened. Also, after scoring against Marseille in the UEFA Cup in that same season there was interest shown in me but that was where it stopped.

Although a move elsewhere would've been a challenge, I was fortunate to appear regularly in Europe with AEK and played against greats like Passarella, Altobelli, Rumennige, Romario, Papin and Lentini.

What else can I say?

RS: Despite your successful career in Greece, you only played eleven times for the senior national team, apart from your two WYC campaigns. Do coaches Frank Arok and Eddie Thomson have something to answer for?

JP: Certainly when I returned to Australia in 1988 for the Olympic qualifying matches and was used rather sparing-

Naturally, my aim is to coach at N.S.L. level, sooner, rather than later.

Jimmy Patikas

the game, Ian Souness had a remarkable shooting technique, Hilton Silva and Ernie Campbell were the master dribblers and Kevin Mullen exemplified the art of overlap.

The NSL may be more professional today but individually these players would still be stars.

RS: Why didn't you accept Alex Ferguson's offer in 1980 and sign for Aberdeen?

JP: In hindsight it might've been a bad move but at the time I was enjoying life at Sydney City and at the age of sixteen I wasn't really sure if I was ready to venture overseas. I perhaps regarded Europe as a better place than Scotland to pursue a professional career.

Who knows I might've been a Manchester United player but back in 1980 nobody could've predicted how successful Ferguson would become.

RS: What was the background to Cesare Menotti's interest in you at the end of 1982 and why did it take to 1985 before you signed professional terms with A.E.K. in Greece?

JP: After playing two matches in a tournament in Acapulco against Brazil and Argentina, I was approached by Menotti to trial at Barcelona. Unfortunately, I suffered a knee injury in the final match and was forced to return home for treatment. Clubs



"Jimmy Patikas? One of my all-time favourite Aussie players," says Inside Soccer editor Aidan Ormond.

ly, despite some good performances, I wasn't exactly enamoured with Frank Arok. Remember, I had put my future on the line at AEK when I returned home.

I believed that Arok was still unhappy with me when I questioned his decision not to play me for the full match against Scotland in Glasgow back in 1985. In reference to that situation both Frank Farina and I were in top form at the time. At least I played the full match in Melbourne but Frank only played in the second half in Melbourne because Arok preferred to stick with the old guard.

I'd always had a great relationship with Thomson going back to the days at Sydney City but I was disappointed when I wasn't considered for the 1994 qualification matches. When I was recalled to play for Australia against A.C. Milan in 1992 I was carrying a knee injury and had to withdraw. Thomson took it the wrong way and that was the last time I was selected for the national team.

RS: Are you enjoying your spell at Canterbury?

JP: It's a great challenge and the players have responded well since I took over the job. Jim Nikas has scored five goals in his last eight games, compared to one in his first ten games, and Abaas Saad is making an impact despite injury problems.

I was disappointed we didn't get three points against Leichhardt after leading 2-0 but we must look to the next few matches to gain maximum points if we want to make the playoffs.

The coaching experience gives me just as great a buzz as playing.

RS: You've always been a favourite son of Sydney Olympic. If the club offered you the coaching position for next season, would you accept?

JP: It would be an honour to be considered for the job and I would give it great consideration.

However, I do owe a strong loyalty to Canterbury who have given me the chance to coach at senior level and maybe for next season a move could be premature.

Nevertheless, I'm on very good terms with the current Olympic squad so anything is possible.

Naturally, my aim is to coach at NSL level sooner rather than later.



Jimmy Patikas last weekend at the Parramatta Eagles versus Canterbury game.

a different role in his football life.

The man who was once courted by Sir Alex Ferguson at Aberdeen and Cesare Menotti at Barcelona is determined to make a major contribution to the Australian game so he can prove the experience he gained in his nine year sojourn in Greek football was truly worthwhile.

In this interview with me, Jim Patikas discusses his playing career in Australia

Tactical change gives

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1

Young (pen.) 28

PERTH GLORY 0

Sunday night at Brandon Park, Wollongong. Crowd 8,326.

Major Semi-Final First Leg



By Stephen Webb

Yes they won, but the missed chances by Wollongong Wolves may yet be rued by them as they prepare to enter the cauldron of Subiaco Oval and 43,000 fans for the second leg of the major semi final.

Neither coach was pleased with the result. Perth, of course, didn't want to lose. But Wollongong needed a more emphatic victory under their belts before facing Perth in front of their fans.

Wollongong began fast and continued that way for the first half. In the first minute Saso Petrovski had a chance at the right post from a Scott Chipperfield lob across the box.

The pace was often detrimental to Wollongong's game, however, with players such as Petrovski and Dino Mennillo missing important touches.

David Cervinski as usual showed his prowess in the air - rising high over Kasey Wehrman and Bobby Despotovski.

Paul Reid fed Matt Horsley running into Perth's penalty area but Dion Valle cleared.

Scott Miller, as part of a night-long contest with Horsley, brought the

Wolves skipper down near half way. Horsley had occasion to return the favour later in the match.

In the tenth minute Miller played back to Wehrman whose long cross was caught high by Les Pogliacomi - one of several instances where the Wollongong keeper rose from the pack to collect safely.

Jason Petkovic proved he was in similar form, denying Petrovski on the end of a long cross from Alvin Ceccoli.

The next Petrovski run for a cross was thwarted by Paul Reid's slight misdirection.

Wolves so far were keener to get to the ball.

In the 13th minute Petrovski broke onto a loose ball and shot low to Petkovic. Two minutes later the Glory keeper punched clear a Mennillo cross under pressure again from Petrovski.

Robert Stanton was one minute hitting a fine long ball down the right touchline for Horsley and the next minute he had to clear after Bobby Despotovski headed down for Alistair Edwards.

After 18 minutes Pogliacomi caught a free kick from the right, Miller blocked Horsley chasing a ball down the line, and Gareth Naven performed a good steal on Young in midfield.

Ceccoli nobbled Edwards chasing a long ball down the right. The free kick evaded everyone as it bounced across the penalty area.

Naven and Wehrman combined to bring down Mennillo. Naven led the break following the Wollongong free kick and ran to the other of the pitch where he met a long cross from Wehrman. Reid was on hand to block Naven turning at goal. Pogliacomi caught the corner.

In the 25th minute Reid delivered a great ball to Chipperfield making a smart run to the left side of Glory's penalty area. He pulled the ball back for Reid who sprayed his shot off target.

Horsley (above left) said a knee injury, incurred during a mid-week practice match, had flared up during the game. But he was no less fiercely competitive. He won much possession in midfield, made several excellent defensive tackles, and led many of Wollongong's attacking breaks. Among them was the move that led to Wollongong's goal.

In the 28th minute Chipperfield pounced on Naven in Glory's penalty area after Noel Spencer wasted Horsley and Chipperfield's good lead-up work with a harmless cross.

Chipperfield robbed the Glory tyro



Dino Mennillo was used as a central striker on Sunday, with Scott Chipperfield playing much deeper. It worked well for Wolves.

and in the subsequent tussle Naven was judged to have dragged Chipperfield down. Young sent Petkovic the wrong way with a well-taken left-footed penalty.

In the 31st minute Chipperfield made a darting run to the corner of the Glory area and provided for Petrovski in front of goal. Petrovski turned and struck but his effort was saved by Petkovic diving to his right.

Perth's few attempts at scoring came late in the half.

Wehrman had a long dig, easily collected by Pogliacomi. And Edgar Junior, receiving the ball from a free kick, shot from outside the box, high over the crossbar.

In the 43rd minute Junior was in the action at the other end, bringing down Horsley just outside Perth's penalty area. The free kick was punched clear by Petkovic but only far enough for Reid, Mennillo and Ceccoli to blast in some shots.

The second half began with Wolves providing some consternation for the group of two dozen purple-clad fans at the northern end.

Reid pumped a long ball - too long for Spencer. Ceccoli, Mennillo, Petrovski and Reid combined in another raid.

Then Young laid off cleverly for Mennillo on the left who fired into the side netting.

An Edwards-Trajkovski combination won Perth a corner. But six minutes into the half Wollongong were on a fast break with Mennillo delivering a fine ball to Petrovski who turned and shot wide of goal. The same combination had the same result minutes later.

Wehrman, Naven and Despotovski linked up to no avail. And, soon after, good work by Despotovski, Trajkovski and Naven ended when Ceccoli dispossessed Despotovski.

In the 56th minute Petkovic conceded a corner, taken by Mennillo and cleared by Valle.

Four minutes later passes across the park from Reid and Mennillo sent Chipperfield running at goal and shooting firmly at distance past the left upright.

Junior fouled Spencer and Ceccoli's free kicked curled across the box and was headed wide.

Naven, breaking strongly through midfield, laid off to the substitute Aurelio Schwertz inside the penalty area. The shot was low and Pogliacomi got down to hold it.

Continued next page



MAJOR SEMI-FINAL MATCH STATS



WOLLONGONG WOLVES:

Pogliacomi, Stanton, Cervinski, Horsley, Reid, Young, Chipperfield, Spencer (Robertson 81), Petrovski (Masi 69), Mennillo.



PERTH GLORY:

Petkovic, Trajkovski (Halpin 78), Miller, Milicevic, Hamwell, Valle, Junior, Naven, Despotovski (Schwartz 61), Wehrman, Edwards.

Yellow cards:

Wollongong: Stanton 85.

Best players

3. MENNILLO (WOLLONGONG)

2. Naven (Perth)

1. Reid (Wollongong)

Referee: Brett Hugo

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

I'm actually very inspired by the Paralympians. You look at those athletes, and at the hardships that they have overcome, on one hand you're thinking to yourself how the hell do they do that, and on the other hand, all you can do is encourage, applaud and admire their results ... as a whole, paralympic athletes really inspire me because it takes so much to do what they do, not only physically but mentally too.

Jason Culina. Well said.

"I think we needed the Air Force to win this game."

Zoran Matic gets into the spirit of the Force metaphors.

It wouldn't matter if Alex Ferguson were the coach of Bankstown, the Tigers will be treating Sunday's game just like any other.

Leichhardt Tigers coach Les de Cella. 'Sir Alex coaches in Super League!'. Now that's a headline.

I'm as busy as a one-legged man in an arse-kicking competition.

Greg Blake on his schedule.

Wolves winning edge

Glory then had a long shot, deflected for a corner which was headed over the crossbar.

In the 66th minute Young chased onto a well-weighted ball from Mennillo, inside Wolves' half. Young, however, with two defenders on his tail, couldn't find the

energy in his right foot to beat Petkovic diving to his right.

Cervinski conceded a corner when blocking Naven running into Wolves' penalty area. Edwards was fortunate not to be penalised for kicking the back of Pogliacomi's ankle while waiting for the

corner to be taken.

Ceccoli executed some punishment on Edwards by running rings around him while clearing the ball from Wollongong's back corner.

Naven, Edwards and Wehrman worked well together moving through midfield but were disrupted by Spencer.

Young, combining with substitute Esala Masi, could only produce a gentle shot that hardly troubled Petkovic.

Perth's substitutions, particularly Troy Halpin, were getting better results. Masi's first touch was letting him down - an omen for horrors to come.

In the 82nd minute, after a rapid string of Wollongong passes through midfield, Young set up Mennillo for another left-foot flier across the face of goal.

Petkovic was again up to the task when called on to take a long Ceccoli free kick after Valle fouled Young 15 metres inside Perth's half.

Minutes later Halpin, forward in left corner, got the better of Cervinski and won a free kick falling over Stanton. Pogliacomi punched Halpin's free kick clear and Junior returned the ball with a blast well wide of goal.

Masi and Horsley combined to get a cross in to Young who fell over in the box.

Late in the game Masi made a horrible blunder. He was first to a ball from Reid that fell between himself and Petkovic. With Petkovic out of his area and the Glory goal unprotected behind him Masi shot wide.

Eight thousand Wollongong supporters were one moment cheering what they thought must be their second goal. And the next moment they were reduced to murmurs of incredulity.

Chipperfield had a chance to terrorise the Perth defence some more



Bobby Despotovski: was well held by the Wolves back line

before the final whistle. Running in from the wing he left several players in his wake before crossing to Masi at the far post. Petkovic cleared.

Chipperfield then demonstrated his value in defence, tackling Naven. Naven soon had a chance, however, shooting wide from distance.

In time added on Mennillo set up Young for a shot but the striker hoicked it across goal.

Young was then on the end of a long ball from Pogliacomi. He passed to Reid who looked for Masi but the defence closed him down.

Mennillo's quick, accurate passing and high involvement in the game won him the home team's man-of-the-match award.

Result is dangerous say both coaches

Both coaches described Wollongong's 1-0 win as a dangerous result. And both were disappointed.

Wollongong coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said he found the result disappointing but thought there were positives to talk about. One was that Wolves didn't concede a goal.

He also thought Wollongong would have a psychological advantage in Perth after dominating the home leg for so long.

"If Perth thought they had the wood on us, they certainly should wake up now," he said.

He was at pains to emphasise that Wollongong's attacking arsenal, including speed and skill on the flanks, would be available in the return match.

"I think the spirit got us home tonight. Everyone wanted to work for each other. Everyone wanted to play to our strengths and compensate for our weaknesses.

"It shone through at the end because we not only had the advantage territorially but we certainly created a number of good, clear-cut, goal scoring chances."

Skipper Matt Horsley agreed there was great team spirit. "At the start of the year we all set ourselves the goal of finishing in the top six and each week we reassessed our goals as we climbed further and further."

He said for a part-time team to be doing so well the players needed good team spirit.

The skipper was pleased with his team's performance, saying key players had been required to stand up and play well and that they did their job.

Horsley said they had concentrated on closing down and pressurising. "That's why we played so well in the first half ... We closed down and played the ball wide. When you have four or five different attacking avenues it makes life easier

Perth coach Bernd Stange at first said his side should be happy with the result at Wollongong. It would be a good base for the return match, he said. "We should be able to score one or two or three goals in Perth. That's why we are very confident."

But then he conceded, "It is not what we wanted today, especially an away goal. But it wasn't possible and, at the end of the day, we were a little bit lucky with the one-nil."

He didn't think Wollongong would have a psychological advantage in Perth in front of 43,000 Glory fans.

And he didn't think the fans would

be demoralised. "Perth Glory fans are the best in the country, definitely; and they will stay behind us ... I think 100 per cent of supporters are behind us."

Stange said Glory would change its attitude for the home game. "We played very reserved in defence. And you will see another team next week, definitely. We will attack. That's what we do all the time in Perth."

He said he wouldn't allow Wollongong the opportunity to counter attack when Perth moved forward, as happened in the latter stages of the game at Brandon Park.

Asked about having to face Wollongong's speed again, he said, "Our defenders are very, very young, especially in the central defence. They couldn't organise the defence and we panicked sometimes and we couldn't create our own chances, only one or two shots. It wasn't enough to score goals today."

He said it was a dangerous result for both teams. "One-nil is not enough maybe. But we have to know that this team is good enough to score an away goal. And it's 50-50."

Gareth Naven was more despondent than his coach. "We would have liked to come over here with a one-nil win. But that wasn't meant to be ... We know what we have to do next week and we'll just have to try to do it to our best ability."

He said at times Wollongong were fluid and quick and attacked quite well but "we'll try to change that around when we get back home".

Theodorakopoulos added: "It's a very dangerous scoreline, I've got to agree with my colleague. We had the chances and we didn't capitalise, which is disappointing."

The Wollongong coach will now have to have a find a way to keep the Wolves hungry but also ready to defend against an attack-minded Perth next week. Naven, Wehrman and Halpin could suddenly become a handful.

His players are conscious they have a good scoring record away from home. And they said they would not be intimidated by the big crowd. In fact some said it would lift them. They would enjoy it. They would be no more or less intimidated than the Perth players.

And they would probably agree with Stange that to play club soccer in front of 43,000 will be a great event for both teams.

Coming soon to Inside Soccer



Adelaide Force's

Adrian Cagalj with Daniela and

The Four Diegos with

Raul Blanco

Carlton's Olyroos give

CARLTON 2

Colosimo 28, Thompson 77.

MARCONI STALLIONS 0

Friday night at Olympic Park, Melbourne. Crowd 3,235.

Elimination Final Second Leg: Carlton goes through 3-0 on aggregate.



By Kevin Christopher

Following last week's comprehensive 1-0 win at Marconi Stadium, few people believed Carlton would have much trouble completing the formalities of a second leg win. But the way the Blues went about sweeping Marconi from the finals race now has many believing that Stuart Munro's team can go all the way to the championship.

The 2-0 scoreline on Friday night barely did the home team justice, with Archie Thompson again putting on the kind of performance which demands Raul Blanco's attention.

Since Munro gave Thompson a purely attacking role, he has blossomed into one of the league's most dangerous strikers and was again a constant menace to the Marconi defence, acting as both an out-and-out striker and provider to Moreira and the supporting midfielders.

He could have scored in the opening ten minutes, after dispossessing Brendan Renaud and dribbling to the edge of the penalty area before unleashing a shot which Michael Turnbull could only parry with his legs.

Alex Moreira, Andrew Marth and David McPherson all had further opportunities to open the scoring but that honour fell to Simon Colosimo, who characteristically cut inside from the right flank and unleashed a curling left shot which threatened to have Turnbull struggling.

But when Chad Gibson stuck out his head in an attempt to divert the ball for a corner he could only deflect the shot past his own keeper, with referee Mark Shield awarding the goal to Colosimo and leaving Gibson grateful this wasn't a Serie A match.

The goal deflated the visitors, who struggled to add to the one good chance they had created, the result of fine interplay between Sean Babic and Kris Trajanovski which allowed Brad Maloney to shoot straight at Dean Anastasiadis from a central position.

Their only other first-half effort of note came from Danny Invincible who slipped past two challenges and fired straight at Anastasiadis.

But they were rare forward thrusts from the Stallions who were soundly beaten in midfield and also struggled to contain the Blues' forward raids.

Mark Atkinson's contribution to this line-up is often overlooked with Marth and Lapsanky getting most of the midfield headlines, but the Kiwi international has made huge strides this season and his versatility makes him the ideal player in the back half.

He curtailed the dangerous Maloney, who has had an indifferent season following last year's 'Player of the Year' effort, and the visiting captain was a sorry sight when he eventually departed with a knee strain.

Brendan Renaud and Chad Gibson



Carlton celebrates the second, and killer, goal from Archie Thompson. Craig Deans (left) is with Stuart Slater.

fired the occasional dangerous cross into the penalty area but Anastasiadis dealt comfortably with most Marconi incursions and it was no real surprise when Christian Care and Francis Awaritefe were introduced just after the hour mark.

Maloney could run no longer while

Trajanovski simply wasn't causing enough angst in the Carlton backline, but changes simply had to be made with Carlton in such dominant mode.

Not surprisingly, Marconi then went for broke and enjoyed their best spell of the game, with Buddy Farah joining the attack at every opportunity and Gibson and Renaud also trying their luck from range.

They even managed to get the ball in the net via Invincible but his effort was denied by an off-side decision.

However, pushing forward always leaves gaps at the back and the Stallions watched in horror on a number of occasions as the Blues flexed their breakaway muscles, most notably when Andrew Packer set off on a scintillating run from the halfway line past Longo and into the penalty area.

It took a superb saving tackle from Mike Smith to prevent a certain goal, and leave Packer dreaming of what might have been.

Renaud went close to equalising for Marconi with fourteen minutes remaining, when his turn and shot had Anastasiadis scrambling down low at his right hand post.

Continued next page

ELIMINATION FINAL MATCH STATS



CARLTON:

Anastasiadis; Horvat, McPherson, Deans, Packer (Douglas 90), Colosimo (Terminello 84), Atkinson, Marth, Lapsansky, Moreira (Slater 70), Thompson.



MARCONI STALLIONS:

Turnbull; Farah, Smith, Longo, Invincible, Renaud, Gibson, Maloney (Care 61), Zoric, Trajanovski (Awaritefe 61), S.Babic (Last 69).

Yellows:

Carlton: Thompson 77
Stallions: Longo 54

Reds:

Stallions: Last 82.

Best Players:

3. THOMPSON (CARL)
2. Colosimo (CARL)
1. Lapsansky (CARL)

Referee Mark Shield



Danny Invincible is consoled by a Carlton player.

Munro a golden chance

It certainly would have made for an interesting final phase of the game, but three minutes later it was all over, and appropriately it was Archie Thompson who sealed the victory.

Such a pity his exuberant celebration took him off the pitch and into Shield's notebook, but the yellow couldn't take the gloss off a thumping right foot volley which whistled inside Turnbull's left hand post.

Marconi's depression deepened

when young substitute Grant Last caught Steve Horvat with a dreadful tackle which had Shield reaching for the red card before Horvat hit the ground.

It made for an extraordinary NSL debut for the eighteen year old ex-AIS player, who had replaced Sean Babic just thirteen minutes prior to his expulsion.

From that point the tie was academic, although Carlton relished the opportunity to enjoy fifteen minutes of tension-free finals football

Marth forced Turnbull into an outstanding point blank save after great lead-up work from Thompson and Lubo Lapsansky before Thompson again went close to giving the scoreboard a more realistic look deep in injury time but his shot was blocked.

It also gave Munro the chance to allow some playing time for substitutes David Terminello and Sean Douglas, both first-team regulars until the return of Colosimo from injury and Craig Deans' outstanding form. Munro explained later that Colosimo could have completed the ninety minutes but was removed purely as a precautionary measure.

With Stuart Slater also restricted to long spells of bench duty and the likes of John Markovski waiting in the wings, Munro now knows he has the depth to cover any problems which may arise over the next week, or two, or three.

Indeed the only stain on a memorable night for Carlton was yet another meagre attendance.

Once again Blues' bean-counters were left scratching their heads at the paltry crowd of 3,236, with no Friday night AFL at the MCG, no basketball or concerts at Melbourne Park, no rain, and no excuses.

For the first time in living memory, there wasn't the usual traffic chaos in Swan St although punters were still bemused by the employment of just one car park attendant.

For some reason it seems Friday night soccer in Melbourne is missing the mark, and it may be a blessing in disguise that next week's match is scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

With the team in such good form, the people of Melbourne are really missing



Lubo Lapsansky and Marconi's Brendan Renaud. The Carlton midfielder was praised by his coach for giving a "disciplined" performance.

Marth says Carlton can go all the way

As expected, the post-match press conference carried little emotion from either team, with Eddie Kmcevic and Brad Maloney acknowledging Carlton's superiority in both games, while Stuart Munro and Andrew Marth were both well aware the real stuff has only just started. But Marth in particular was upbeat about his club's chances of upsetting the favourites.

"We can most definitely go all the way. We have a huge squad and we're playing with confidence and that's a big bonus. Everyone is fighting for their positions, which is good."

His coach was only concerned about the next eight days however.

"We'll worry about Sydney Olympic on Monday morning. The players will have the weekend off and we'll start the preparation for Olympic on Monday."

"It's finals football. It doesn't make any difference who you get, we're just glad to be there, and we're at home as well."

"The last six or seven weeks at Olympic Park hasn't been too bad to us. After an indifferent start to the season we've now proven that we enjoy playing here, I think because the surface is so good and it makes it a good game most of the time."

Although Munro (pictured) didn't break into the full blown smile we dream of, he found it hard to contain his pride in the way his side had totally dismantled Marconi over the past two matches.

"I thought we were fairly comfortable winners and deserved a 2-0 win. Everything went to plan and we had a 10-15 minute spell, which you'd expect, when they really threw everybody forward."

"They gambled a little bit and went one-on-one at the back but then we got the killer goal that was the end of it. And then it could have been three or four possibly."

"Over the two legs I'm very, very proud and very, very pleased with the players. I think the discipline we've shown has been outstanding."

"I think the boys played fantastic tonight. I thought Lubo Lapsansky gave

one of his more disciplined performances and just anchored himself in the middle of the park."

"I thought Atkinson did a very good job on Maloney and the exciting players (Thompson and Colosimo) really showed over the ninety minutes what they're made of."

A despondent Eddie Kmcevic found it difficult to hide his disappointment.

"We were beaten by a much better side, obviously. Not much to say really. They thoroughly deserved to beat us today, and last week as well."

"It has been a tease of a year. When I arrived in August the squad was already there and we added a couple. But it has been a year where I've really had to assess the squad I've got."

"Come Monday morning we'll sit down and obviously there are some players we'd like to recruit for next year, and we'll look forward to next year."

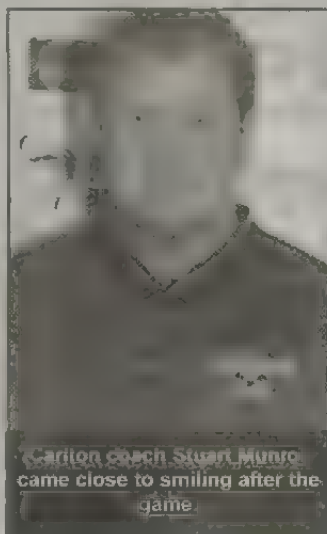
His skipper was under no illusions as to where the Stallions failed to match Carlton. "Someone hit it on the head earlier when they said they are a physical team. They can complete with anyone physically and you have to give them credit, over the two legs they were the best team, I don't think anyone can

dispute that."

For all their domination however, Carlton failed to produce the number of good chances such control warrants, although during the week Munro had made no secret of his desire to retain a clean sheet, and the importance of clean sheets in finals can never be underestimated.

In that context, the performance of Horvat, McPherson and Deans at the back can only be viewed as a positive, and the errors which were so prevalent a few months ago have all but been eliminated.

Goalkeeper Dean Anastasiadis has also learned the art of concentration and if the Blues can maintain their outstanding recent defensive form, then Sydney Olympic, and maybe one or two other teams, will be in for a lean time of it



Carlton coach Stuart Munro came close to smiling after the game.

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ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 1

Pelosi 46+

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2

Wilson 36, Mendez 66

Friday night at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide. Crowd: 9,054.

Elimination Final Second Leg: Olympic go through 5-2 on aggregate.



By Margaret Bowden and
Donald Campbell

In a disappointing finale to Adelaide City's season, Sydney Olympic showed the under-strength home side to be a spent Force. No-one could disagree with Olympic sweeper Ante Juric's assessment that "the whole team put in a winning effort from top to bottom."

This was the main difference between the two sides - Olympic played as a well-oiled, disciplined team, while City played patchy soccer, relying on too few individual efforts to try to keep the fairytale alive.

And if they thought Olympic keeper Perosh would be easy to beat, he had a few surprises in store. His season has been another fairytale in itself.

The game was played at a slower pace than the first leg, both sides wanting to score that critical first goal, but also wary of conceding it.

As Olympic coach Culina said after the game, "...we were fairly confident today, so when we scored the first goal it was easier for us."

Possession-wise, it was a fairly even match, but City found it very difficult to break through the tight Olympic defence. When they did, Perosh was ready.

City seemed frustrated even before Wilson put the visitors ahead. Playmaker Mendez was the recipient of a few hefty tackles, and referee Gerry Connolly, officiating in his 150th game, showed Bradley Hassell the first yellow card for hacking

Mendez.

Emerton also suffered his fair share of shirt-pulling and grabbing at the hands of Gianluca Lagati, who managed to keep him in check in the first half, but couldn't catch him in the second.

As City played more desperate soccer in the second half, a few tit-for-tat crunchers came from both sides. Big Sinozic, who played a standout game, was finally booked, as were Cardozo and Pelosi.

City looked the more determined to score early in the match. Hard running at the Olympic defence by Hassell, Nick Sabljak and Matthew Kemp resulted in Perosh punching a Kemp shot clear in the eighth minute, but it was Cardozo who fired in the first really dangerous shot of the game six minutes later. His low 35 metre drive sent Adrian Cagalj diving to his left to fingertip the ball past the post.

Wilson then fired a point blank shot at Cagalj from the resultant corner, bringing a superb reflex save from the City keeper. For the next five minutes City took the initiative, but Player of the Match Baillie repelled everything, setting up Emerton and Marusic with long balls out of defence.

Marusic fed Mendez, who took off on a blitzing run, only to be cut down by Hassell on the half way line. Pelosi then got in on the act, performing the biggest dive in NSL history, escaping with a verbal warning from Connolly.

Emerton appeared set for a clear run into goal, but Cartwright, having learned his lessons well from Tobin, put in a crucial sliding tackle.

A minute later the crowd roared in anticipation of a City goal. Vidmar chipped the ball into the penalty area for Kemp, only to see Perosh dive on Kemp's boot as he swung to shoot.

Wilson and Emerton replied for Olympic, but Carl Veart cleared for City.

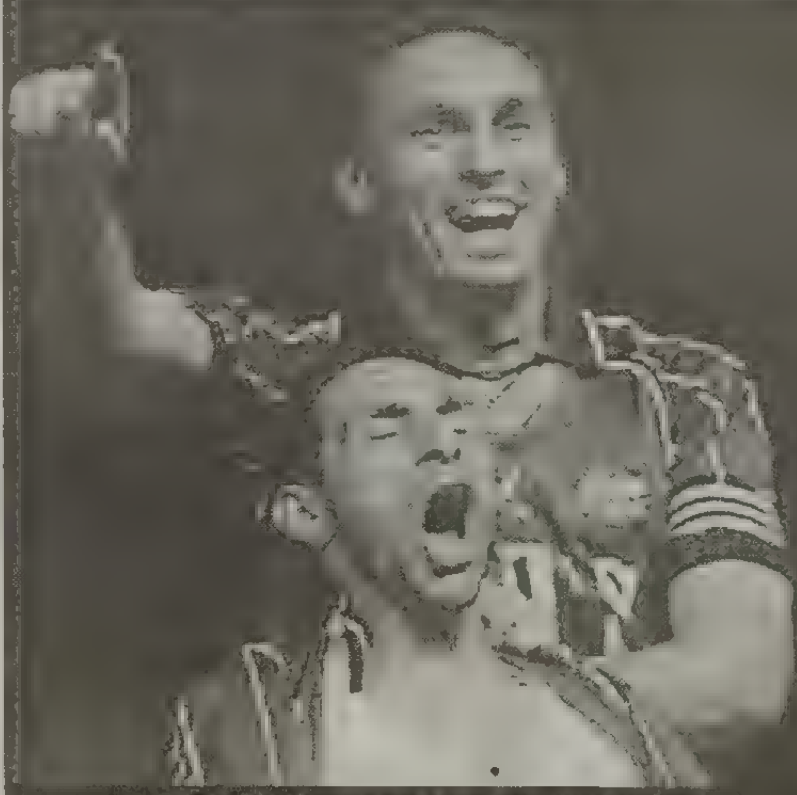
Again the fans were on their feet as Vidmar passed to Day, Day set up Mori, and Mori blasted from close range. But that man Perosh was there again, this time saving with his feet.

Then it was Olympic's turn to head for goal, this time through Wilson, but Hassell got the better of him.

Mendez and Emerton again combined to turn the tables, but Lagati, desperate for the first goal, cut out a cross and raced 50 metres up the pitch. His run was halted by the Olympic defence and in the space of seconds, Cardozo had a chance to put Olympic in front. Mori fouled Mendez 40 metres out, Cardozo took the free kick - but blasted over the bar.

Then came the moment City had dreaded - one of the best team-effort goals of the season.

Sinozic sent the ball through to Mendez. Mendez passed to Emerton on the right. Emerton rounded the City defence and raced into the penalty



Yes, we did it! Chi Chi Mendez and Ante Juric (back ground) celebrate the goal they know has got them to the minor semi-final.

Olympic wins lock stock and two smokin' barrels

There was no escape this time for philosopher Zoran Matic (pictured) and his Adelaide City. Sorcerer Branko Culina and his apprentices flew in to write the concluding chapter in what has to be the most amazing fairytale of the season.

City had come from bottom to fourth. Olympic had suffered the reverse, slipping from top place to having to battle for a play-off spot. Fortunately for Olympic, and unfortunately for City, both sides reverted to their earlier form in the play-offs.

Olympic capitalised on every chance in the first leg while City played well but squandered its chances. This week, a full strength Olympic, buoyed by their 4-1 scoreline last week, never looked in doubt.

Although play swung end-to-end for the full 90 minutes, Olympic appeared to cruise through the match, running on self-belief. They used every inch of the carpet-like Hindmarsh pitch, exploiting every gap left open by City's reshuffled formation.

City, under extreme pressure without captain Alex Tobin (injured) and consistent Ange Costanzo (suspended) in defence, looked unsettled. Michael Cartwright deputised admirably for Tobin, but City needed its captain.

Aurelio Vidmar dropped back to sweeper, reducing City's penetration

through the midfield. Nathan Day, playing up front with Claudio Pelosi, looked short on match practice, while Damian Mori looked hamstrung playing deeper in midfield than in his customary striking role.

A disconsolate Mori expressed his disappointment after the game, saying that after the difficulty of getting to the play-offs, then going out the way City did it might have been better not to have got there at all.

Matic, almost too shattered to speak added "I think we needed the air Force tonight to win this game."

Olympic had strength all over the park, with giants Brett Emerton, marauding up front, and Scott Baillie

playing bailiff at the back, with ball magician Gabriel Mendez blitzing the midfield.

Pablo Cardozo, Mendez, Emerton and Lindsay Wilson played as if they had been together since kindergarten, teasing the City midfield and defence.

Baillie, Sebastian Sinozic, Ante Juric and Kresimir Marusic put up the shutters on City's midfield and strike force, while John Perosh had a superb game in goal. They had the game locked up, and City, try as they might, couldn't find the key.

and slotted the ball under Cagalj - 1-0 Olympic after 36 minutes.

Continued next page

ELIMINATION FINAL MATCH STATS

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE:
Cagalj, Lagati, Mori, Veart, Sabljak, Vidmar, Day, Cartwright, Kemp, Hassell (Kim 74), Pelosi.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC:
Perosh, Thomas, Baillie, Junc, Cardozo, Emerton (Tome 72), Sinozic, Mendez (Goutzoulis 76), Wilson (Zorbas 84), Kohler, Marusic.

Yellows:

Force: Hassell 21, Pelosi 74.
Olympic: S Sinozic 57, P Cardozo 59.

Best Players:

3. BAILLIE (SYDNEY OLYMPIC)
2. Mendez (Sydney Olympic)
1. Vidmar (Adelaide City)

Referee: Gerry Connolly.

in strong Olympic win



This pretty much sums up Adelaide City's night. Man of the Match Olympic's Scott Baillie powers away from Force striker Claudio Pelosi.

As is City's habit, the goal stirred them into a shooting frenzy. First Mori, then Hassell fired in shots in quick succession, but Juric cleared them both.

Veart boomed a long shot over the bar and it appeared City would at least get an equaliser before half time.

Olympic, knowing City now faced an almost impossible task, also went for broke, only a superbly read Sabljak clearance stopping a magical move between Sinozic, Mendez, Thomas and Wilson.

Then Emerton was guilty of one of the misses of the match. He had the chance to put Olympic's place in the finals beyond doubt when he rounded Cartwright and Vidmar for a free shot in the penalty area. With only Cagalj to beat, he shot wide and high of the left hand post in the 41st minute.

City seemed to lose the plot for a few minutes, fouling Mendez and Marusic in their desperation to prevent Olympic from scoring again.

Then, finally, City broke through. Kemp sent a long ball forward for Pelosi, who skipped around the Olympic defence and smashed a left-footed pile driver just inside the post to beat Perosh - 1-1 a minute into time added on, and City's 1000th NSL goal.

Hindmarsh erupted. Could City still achieve the impossible?

City threw everything at Olympic

from the start of the second half, Mori booming a shot way over the bar in the first minute. The crowd cheered the police officer in the northern stand who made a brilliant save!

But Olympic didn't come out to sit back and defend, but some of the City scoring hoodoo seemed to have rubbed off on them.

Four minutes in Cardozo missed an even easier shot than Emerton. Mendez skimmed Hassell, raced into the penalty area and cut the ball back for the unmarked Cardozo. With a mile of space and only Cagalj between him and glory, Cardozo slammed the ball over the bar.

City continued to attack, but failed to finish. Cardozo put in a cynical tackle on Vidmar, Juric cleared the free kick, but Sabljak pounced to

rocket in a shot at Perosh, only to see the keeper pull off another brilliant reflex save and send Olympic into attack.

Emerton ran the ball into the penalty area, but took it beyond the touch line under intense pressure from Lagati.

Day then had a chance to put City ahead, latching onto a pass from Mori, but he skied his shot over the bar.

Down to the other end again, and Emerton beat the offside trap, running onto a perfect through ball from Marusic. With only Cagalj to beat again,

Emerton angled the ball toward the far post, but Cagalj somehow got a foot to it and deflected it to Vidmar to clear.

Three minutes later Olympic finally scored the elusive second goal to set up their meeting with Carlton next week.

City gave away a free kick 20 metres out on the left on a 45 degree angle. Mendez stepped up and struck the ball. It appeared to fly through the air in slow motion, curling into the top far corner of the net. Cagalj stood rooted to the goal line, unable to do anything to stop such a

snot. What a free kick. What a goal - 2-1 Sydney Olympic after 66 minutes, and the end of the ball game statistically. But not on the park.

City, to their credit, showed that 'never-say-die' spirit that got them to the play-offs, and continued to press Olympic for the rest of the game.

Neither were Olympic prepared to sit on their laurels, although Culina took off Emerton, Mendez and Wilson to give Norman Tome, George Goutzoulis and Peter Zorbas a run.

Kemp ran the full length of the pitch to earn a free kick on the edge of the box, but Baillie cleared again.

Cartwright found himself with a chance, but couldn't finish. Suddenly, with City pushing everyone forward, Olympic found themselves with space all over the pitch, and used the full width to their advantage.

In the 77th minute, Olympic had another free kick in the spot where Mendez scored. Marusic tried a copy cat shot and almost put it away, but this time Cagalj pulled off a brilliant save.

Mori almost scored five minutes from time, but again Perosh dived to deny him. Olympic sub Zorbas brought the best out of Cagalj, then Marusic tried to chip him but Cagalj anticipated the shot to perfection. Sub Tome fired in the last shot of the game, a 20 metre screamer over the bar.

The no-holds barred attitude of both sides was a great advertisement for the game. City could have layed down and died after Olympic's second goal, but to their credit and the appreciation of their fans, they went down fighting.

Olympic now advance into the minor semi-final against Carlton fairly confident that they can make the finals. "If there was a side outside the top two who could go all the way, other than us, it's Adelaide City," said Branko Culina.

"Now that we've overcome Adelaide, I think we can go all the way. We have our best available squad almost there...I have no doubt if we get past Carlton we are capable of going all the way."



Veart v Mendez

INSIDE SOCCER SOLD OUT?



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INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER



By Roy Hay

South Melbourne did just enough to beat the Victorian Institute of Sport by two goals to one in the Preliminary Final in the Southern Division at C B Smith Reserve on Saturday.

The winning goal came 27 minutes into extra-time after the teams had been locked at one-all at the end of regulation time.

The VIS showed the early form and deservedly took the lead in 35 minutes from a set piece.

David Terek fired in a free kick which took enough of a deflection to beat the keeper as it flew into the top corner.

It stayed at one-nil till four minutes after the break when Bons Ovcin equalised for South Melbourne (pictured above).

After that the match was as tight as could be and the teams were still level at the end of ninety minutes.

Though the golden goal rule applied there was still no breakthrough in the first half of extra time.

Only three minutes were left when striker Elias Dimourtzidis - recently signed to the club from AIS - found enough space in the box to grab the winner.

It was not a match of the highest quality, though both sides played well in patches.

Anthony Magnacca showed out-

standing leadership both on and off the field in what was otherwise a fairly inexperienced South Melbourne side, which will have to improve if it is to overthrow Carlton in the Southern Division Grand Final next week.

Laurent Honore should return in defence but the odds must be on Carlton to pick up its second Southern Division title in succession.

VIS 1

Terek

South Melbourne 2

Ovcin, Dimourtzidis

Marconi advanced to the Northern Division NYL Grand Final courtesy

of a late Junior Sauturaga goal at Brandon Park on Sunday.

The game was watched by a good sized crowd as part of the build-up to the major semi-final first leg in the senior game.

Marconi were deserved winners in a dour contest, yet Northern Spirit striker James Monie blew some guilt-edged opportunities for the side from North Sydney, who had a large number of fans travel down for the game.

Marconi, who had finished third on the table, beat Sydney Olympic with a later winner in the elimination final last week.

They will now play the minor pre-rippers, Parramatta Power, in this week's Northern Division Grand Final.

Bil Turner Cup Results

ROUND 1:

Crestwood 3 Gilroy College 0
 Kirrawee 7 Gymer 1
 Dural 5 Guyra 0
 Armidale 3 O'Connor 0
 Ashford Central 3 Holy Trinity
 Inverell 1
 Murwillumbah 2 Tweed Heads 0
 St Marys Casino 3 Kyogle 2
 Trinity Lismore 2 St Johns Woodlawn 1
 Nambucca Heads 3 Christ Community 2
 Bellingen 2 Dorrigo 0
 Orara 4 Bishop Druitt 0
 Taree 9 Buladelah 0
 St Josephs Pt Macquarie 2 Heritage Christian 1
 Scone 2 Singleton 0
 Mount View 3 Muswellbrook 0
 Cessnock 3 Kurri Kurri 0
 Scone Grammar 2 St Catherines Singleton 1
 Matiland Grossman 9 Rutherford 1
 St Josephs Lochinvar 3 Hunter Valley Grammar 2
 Dungoo 4 Mailland 2
 Newcastle Grammar 3 Tomaree 0
 Francis Greenway 8 Irrawang 0
 St Pius X 3 Raymond Terrace 0
 Hunter School of PA 3 Waratah 0

Cardiff 3 Glendale 1
 Whitebridge 2 St Marys Gateshead 1
 St Pauls Bopragul 3 Monsset
 La Salle Lithgow 1 Lithgow 0
 Mt Austin 3 Wagga Wagga 0
 Coolamon Central 4 Tie Rock Central
 Corimal 3 Smiths Hill 1
 ST Josephs 3 Albion Park 0
 Ayr 6 Burdekin Catholic 1
 Mercy 7 Mackay 1

ROUND 2:

Manly 2 North Sydney Boys 1
 Holly Cross Ryde 4 Asquith Boys 0
 William Clarke College 3 Masada 0
 Menai 1 Heathcote 0
 Blakehurst 1 James Cook Boys 0
 DLS Caringbah 7 Woollooware 3
 Randwick Boys 2 J J Cahill 1
 All Saints Lakemba 3 Moriah College 0
 DLS Ashfield 3 Concord 1
 Condell Park 9 Marrickville 2
 Patrician Bros Blacktown 5 Quakers Hill 0
 ST Clair 6 Penrith 2
 Emmaus College 9 Jamison 4
 St Dominics Penrith 8 Kingswood 1
 Westfields 4 Bonnyrigg 0
 Prairewood 2 Cecil Hills 1
 Freeman Catholic 5 Fairfield 0

Armidale 1 Dural 0
 Inverell 5 Ashford Central 0
 Mackville 2 Kempsey 1
 Francis Greenway 3 St Pius X 2
 Kotara 1 Warners Bay 0

Bill Turner Trophy

Girls 15 Years

QUALIFYING ROUND:

Cromer 2(3) Narrabeen Sports 2(2)
 Berkeley Vale 1 Terrigal 0
 Plumpton 3 Doonside 2
 Blacktown Girls 7 Castle Hill 1
 Ashcroft 2 Lumea 1
 Elderslie 6 Liverpool Girls 0
 Lismore 5 Kyogle 1
 Casino 1 Kadina 0
 Woolgoolga 4 Bellingen 1
 Port Macquarie 5 Heritage Christian 0
 James Sheehan 1 Orange 0
 Canowindra 1 Cowra 0
 Peak Hill Central 7 Dubbo 0
 Bathurst 3 Mudgee 1
 Canobolas 3 Red Bend College 0
 McKillop College 5 Kelso 0
 La Salle Lithgow 1 Lithgow 0

Canberra to host Schools Youth Cup

International soccer will be played in Canberra when Australian Schools Soccer host their inaugural International Youth Cup in January 2001.

The tournament will be held between January 8 and 12 at the Australian Institute of Sport's athletics stadium.

The national schools teams Australia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland and Wales will compete.

This is the first time that Australian Schools Soccer will host a full international tournament.

"We have toured on an annual basis for the past 16 years and have also hosted individual teams here in Australia during that time," National Secretary, Chris James stated.

"A number of teams wanted to tour in early January, so the staging of a tournament to include all the teams was logical."

"Canberra is the ideal venue with the superb facilities at the AIS and also with 2001 being the centenary of Australia's federation."

The Australian team will be selected at the National Championships being held in Darwin during August. The team will prepare for the tournament with a five-day tour to New Zealand, staying at Oceania's Football Academy in Auckland.

"The draw will be finalised and announced next week," James concluded

Controversial win for Jets in South Aust.

PREMIER LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Adelaide Blue Eagles	14	11	1	2	39	11	28	34
Modbury	14	11	0	3	24	14	10	33
Croydon Kings	14	10	0	4	36	17	19	30
Port Lion	14	8	1	5	25	16	9	26
Elizabeth City	14	6	2	6	23	21	2	20
Campbelltown City	14	6	1	7	18	23	-5	19
Adelaide City	14	5	3	6	24	24	0	18
Raiders	14	6	0	8	19	21	-2	18
Cumberland United	14	4	1	9	14	26	-12	13
White City Warriors	14	4	1	9	8	20	-12	13
Metro Stars	14	2	4	8	15	31	-16	10
West Torrens Birkalla	14	2	4	8	12	31	-19	10

STATE LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Olympic FC	14	11	3	0	35	10	25	36
Port Pirie City	14	8	3	3	30	18	12	27
Para Hills Knights	14	7	4	3	32	18	16	25
Salisbury United	14	8	1	5	25	24	1	25
Northern Demons	14	7	3	4	30	20	10	24
Western Strikers	14	5	6	3	26	22	4	22
Noarlunga United	14	7	0	7	22	23	-1	21
Adelaide Cobras	14	6	2	6	24	23	1	20
Enfield City	14	3	5	6	26	29	-3	14
Adelaide Hills	14	3	2	9	20	35	-15	11
Seaford	14	2	1	11	11	37	-26	7
Panthers	14	1	1	12	14	38	-24	4

By Donald Campbell and Margaret Bowden

In a week of upsets in the Premier League, Adelaide City knocked off Elizabeth City Rams 1-0, inconsistent Raiders stole the points from Port Lion 2-1 and struggling Cumberland Foxes inflicted Campbelltown City Red Devils' second defeat in as many weeks, 1-0.

In the match of the round, Modbury Jets shot down Croydon Kings 3-1, while league leaders Blue Eagles defeated White City Warriors 2-0. Equal bottom placed Metro Stars and West Torrens Birkalla fought out a 0-0 draw.

The battle of the two Cities was a classy spectacle, both teams showing the influence of coaches Milan Ivanovic (Adelaide City) and Alby Kidd (Elizabeth City). Adelaide City finally broke through

in the 57th minute. Neil Childs scored the only goal in his first match against his old side Elizabeth. Savouring the moment, he ran to the spectators and razed them up! Elizabeth threw everything at Adelaide, but to no avail. Star of the match was Lucas Pantelis.

Raiders, down one nil at half time, sprung a surprise on hot favourites Port Lion. Joe Calabria put Port Lion ahead in the first half, pouncing on a defensive error to make the second shot of a double strike count. The second half saw the Raiders' 'babies' take control, young Rasimi equalising, then 15 year old Mario Karlovic slamming an unstoppable shot goalwards. It hit team mate Stanko Zilic and ricocheted into the net to give Raiders the win.

Cumberland Foxes and Campbelltown City turned on a great spectacle at Bailey reserve. Nil all at half time, both sides came out to score in the second half. Fifteen minutes in, Foxes' Chris Nicholls set up Damian Gagliardi to score a rare goal to give the home side their fourth win of the season. Veteran Les Maticsek was back to his best, supported by Nick Mitchell and Andy Leane. Joe Barbaro, Andy Allan and Udagawa were Campbelltown's best.

In the match of the round, Modbury Jets and Croydon Kings played out a nail-biter. Locked together in second spot, this was a must win game for both teams. Jason Trimboli put the Jets one nil up early, but Tosh Deptula equalised for the Kings. Jets defender Gary Aitken again put the home side ahead just before half time. Kings' keeper Eddie Scalzi claimed someone threw a shoe at him before

Charlie Marwe scored the Jets' third, but the goal stood. Modbury move into outright second spot.

White City Warriors dropped back to their early season place near the foot of the table after taking on Blue Eagles. Top scorer Michael Brooks again did the damage for the Eagles ten minutes into the second half. Eagles' second goal was courtesy of a Brooks cross which ricocheted off Warriors defender Rowan Plunkett.

In a lacklustre performance, bottom sides Metro Stars and Birkalla squandered chances. Highlight of the match was a powerful header from Birks' sub Simon Clarke which brought a brilliant save from Metro's keeper Ben Moore. Both sides had players stretchered off with ankle injuries - Metro's captain Danny Sabatino and Birks' youngster Joe Richichi.

Twenty three goals were scored in this round, 19 of them in only four matches. In the state league match of the round, boom side Salisbury went down 0-4 at home to leaders Olympic, Seaford suffered a 0-5 loss to Northern Demons, Panthers went down 2-4 to Noarlunga Bulldogs, and Hills Hawks and Enfield Falcons battled out a 2-2 draw.

In the other matches, Cobras went down 1-2 to Western Strikers while the only home team to win, Port Pirie City, defeated Para Hills Knights 1-0.

Salisbury threatened the League leaders early early through Robson, but Darian Bauer saved. Olympic coach Branko made changes at half time, bringing himself on, plus subs John Spatharos and Peter Apostolopoulos. Spatharos earned a penalty which Sav Pappas slotted home, then scored two himself, one from a cross, one a solo effort around the keeper. Sorrento Parissos scored Olympic's fourth with a towering header.

Ricky Cerracchio's Northern Demons made the most of the long trip South to Seaford, bagging five goals. Three nil up at half time, they never let the home side into the game. Player coach

Cerracchio put his team on the score sheet with a penalty, followed by another from Sam Salvemini, and a classy shot from Ryan Weir. In the second half, Weir scored his second and Joe Gaudio added the fifth. Seaford missed influential Thomas Connor, out for the rest of the season with a groin injury.

Panthers' coach Ray Blair must be tearing his hair out. Visitors Noarlunga scored three goals before the Panthers woke up. Duncan Mather put away a free kick after the Panthers' keeper picked up a back pass, then Scott Price and Peter Francis chimed in with a goal each. Panthers' Peter Rossi pulled back a goal a few minutes into the second half. Anthony Best then sunk a free kick to make it 2-3, but Duncan Mather scored his second to put the game beyond doubt.

Hills and Enfield played out an end-to-end thriller, the 2-2 draw a true reflection of the game. Both keepers, the Hills' Steve Spencer and Enfield's Andrew Carman, were the best players on the pitch, each making spectacular saves to keep their sides in the game.

Hills struck first from a long Spencer clearance to Andy Kay, who crossed for Simon Wegener to score. Enfield equalised when Peter Carman volleyed into an open goal after a scramble in the box. David Tissotti put Enfield ahead with a 20 metre screamer early in the second half, but Justin Gallagher equalised for the Hills. Juan Rodriguez could have won the game for Hills, but Carman saved his spot kick.

Cobras are having a lean time at home, while Western Strikers are going from strength to strength. Leonardi gave the Strikers a one nil lead at the break, then Barbier put away their second in the second half. Apostolidis pulled one back for Cobras, but they couldn't find an equaliser.

Port Pirie City put their home ground advantage to good use to take three vital points off Para Hills Knights and replace them in second spot on the ladder. Corrieri did the damage for the home side in the first half, and Knights never recovered.

Gazza would not have been impressed!

By Mike Hennessy

Swan IC, the surprise team of the Cellular One Premier League, maintained their top spot with a tight, hard earned 1-1 draw against ECU Joondalup at the Joondalup Arena on Saturday.

There was no Paul Gascoigne for the Joondalup side; and if had he seen the game he might well have opted for his favourite hobby of fishing.

Swan scored in the first half through the league's top goalscorer, Nigel Aubin, in what was a scrappy first stanza. The second half was highlighted by a hotly disputed penalty for an apparent push by goalkeeper, Corey Hugo.

Carl McDarby coolly slotted home the spot kick to earn his side a point. Second-placed

Fremantle City lost the opportunity to gain ground on the leaders by losing 3-2 to neighbours, Cockburn City. Goals by Gary Faria and Steve Bourne were not enough. Cockburn were aided by an own goal to add to those scored by Antonio Naglaria and Jodie Pratt.

Ashfield-Bunbury were able to jump ahead of Fremantle on goal difference with a 2-1 win over Inglewood United. There was no celebrating the approval of their new stadium by Inglewood as goals by Sasha Garic and Steven Goss gained the three points for Ashfield-Bunbury. Lee Crosby score for Inglewood.

Stylish Perth moved up the league ladder with a 3-1 win over Floreat Athena. Perth always looked to have the game in hand although both sides missed good chances. Perth score twice in the first 15

minutes through former Canberra Cosmos player Nick Mrdja. He opened the scoring by starting and finishing a fine move.

His second was a simple affair but he gave Perth the momentum they need to be a top side. Peter Coci brought one back for Floreat in the second half but a fine run and low cross shot enabled Adrian Caseres to put the game beyond Floreat's reach.

Sorrento continued their improved form with a 3-1 win over lowly Bayswater City. 2-0 up at half-time through two Trevor Morgan headers Sorrento were given a fright when Dom Ando scored for Bayswater. Hamilton Thorp scored again also with a header leaving fans wondering whether Bernd Stange would recall him for Perth Glory.

MCINERNEY PREMIER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE:

ECU Joondalup 1	Swan IC 1
Fremantle City 2	Cockburn City 3
Inglewood United 1	Ashfield/Bunbury 2
Perth SC 3	Floreat Athena 1
Sorrento Bayswater 3	City Panthers 1
Western Knights 4	Rockingham City 1

RESERVES:

ECU Joondalup 5	Swan IC 5 2
Fremantle City 1	Cockburn City 3
Inglewood United 4	Ashfield/Bunbury 4
Perth SC 3	Floreat Athena 4
Sorrento 7	Bayswater City Panthers 1
Western Knights 2	Rockingham City 1

SWAN IC	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Ashfield/Bunbury	7	5	0	2	18	8	15	10
Fremantle City	7	5	0	2	19	11	15	8
ECU Joondalup	7	4	1	2	16	10	13	6
Sorrento	7	4	0	3	16	17	12	-1
Western Knights	7	4	0	3	13	14	12	-1
Perth SC	7	3	2	2	14	8	11	6
Inglewood United	7	3	1	3	12	7	10	5
Cockburn City	7	3	0	4	12	14	9	-2
Bayswater City Panthers	7	1	1	5	7	19	4	-12
Floreat Athena	7	1	0	6	10	23	3	-13
Rockingham City	7	0	0	7	7	29	0	-22

Coasties 1 Bonnyrigg 4

What a difference a week makes! Last weekend the Coasties had played the best match of the season in beating third placed St George whilst Bonnyrigg had been given a good hiding by Blacktown.

At Plum Park on Saturday night it was the Coasties turn to get not a hiding but a thrashing by a Bonnyrigg side that were too fast, too good, too skilful - too everything!

There were no excuses after this match for the Coasties - they were simply outplayed by a Bonnyrigg team obviously out to prove that their two recent losses were 'just one (or two) of those things'.

Within four minutes Colin Luff scored the first of a double when he got on the end of a good Bonnyrigg move which he finished off clinically.

Stewart Van Bentum, Robert Gomez, Michael Hawrysiuk and Ben Green could all have added to the tally before Luff scored his second after 20 minutes but Gary Meier pulled off two great saves and the other shots went just wide.

Trinity Allen, in the Bonnyrigg goal, may well have gone for a cup of hot soup at the canteen. Nobody would have noticed because he hardly touched the ball in the first half hour.

At the thirty minute mark David Reid took a free kick 25 metres out and his vicious shot bounced off a Coasties defender - the ball fell to an unmarked Green for an easy tap in.

Five minutes from half time Tayfun Devrimol passed back to Allen who completely missed the ball which was goal bound but he recovered quickly enough to kick the ball off the line.

That was the closest that the Coasties came to scoring in the first half.

Coasties improved a little after half time and Nathan Byrn actually forced Allen to make a save.

But at the sixty-fourth minute mark the visitors added their fourth when a 25 metre shot from Hawrysiuk was brilliant-

ly tipped onto the bar by Meier only to have the ball drop at the feet of Leigh Gunn to score an easy goal.

Both teams made three substitutes in the last half hour with Peter Preston and Hokin adding a bit of spice to the Coasties, but it was far too late.

Bonnyrigg obviously relaxed late in the game and definitely took their foot off the accelerator.

With two minutes to go Shane Knight had a shot from 20 metres and scored a consolation goal for the home team.

For Bonnyrigg the best players were the whole team! For the Coasties Meier kept the score to a reasonable level and Knight showed he has just about returned to his old form after his return from a long injury lay off.

Mark Drysdale broke the club record when he played his 307th game but it is doubtful if he went home to celebrate - unless it was for Chelsea winning the FA Cup - come to think of it, he is a Chelsea supporter - some sort of consolation for Mark.

The Coasties' Under 21's maintained their push for the minor premiership winning 2-1 with goals from Daniel Surridge and Brett Jager while the Under 18 had a 0-0 draw.

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES:

Meier, Matthews, Steele, Drysdale, Peatey, Knight, Roper (Binskin) Byrn, Ritchie (Preston), Daley (Marshall), Sontag(Hokin).

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES:

Allen, Green Dragas, Reid, Mancino (Harding), Luff, Devrimol, Gomez, Hawrysiuk, Van Bentum (Ujesenovich), Gunn (Cetinay).

Yellows:

Coasties: Drysdale.
Bonnyrigg: Nil

Referee: Boyd McGregor.

Blond hotshot

He's blond, he's tall, he's built like a tank and he's got arguably the fiercest shot in the NSW Super League Under 18 competition.

His name is Nathan Carmody and he is another one of the 'young guns' that are putting the Central Coast Coasties on the map this season.

Like most soccer mad kids, Nathan started playing when he was very young - in fact he first played under six for Wyoming Soccer Club when he was five years old. He continued to play for that club until he was fourteen - he then played Under 15 and Under 16 for McQuarie Sports (now Central Coast Lakers.)

During his school days he represented the Central Coast Soccer Association in the Under 12 and Under 16 teams competing in the NSW Brach Titles competition. He also represented Northern Region schoolboys in the State titles.

In 1999 Carmody tried out for the Coasties Under 18 team at sixteen years of age and was lucky enough to earn selection. He made an immediate impact on then coach Dale Eggleton (now first grade coach) and became an important member of that team.

He was again selected for this season's Under 18 team but his improvement was such that he was selected to play in the Under 21 team after a few matches - and this when he just turned eighteen.

His main assets are his powerful runs with the ball, his ability to beat opponents, his vision but most of all his powerful shot.

The majority of his goals come from 20 to 25 metre shots on the run or his ability to score from dead ball situations around the penalty area with what can only be termed 'piledrivers'.

In the past two seasons he has amazed opposition players, and team-mates, with the power and speed of his shots, many of which have resulted in goals.

Carmody is one of the main reasons the Coasties Under 18 team is doing so well this season and the team-mates and coach are hoping he doesn't play too many more games in the Under 21 this season - not until they have consolidated their position in the semi-finals anyway!



Since leaving school Carmody, like many kids, is still looking for a job but he doesn't lay around idle. When he's not training with the Coasties he is coaching girls' and boys' teams. He also assists, wherever possible, in the coaching of the local Ourimbah Soccer Club's Under 12 team. If they learn nothing else they will certainly learn how to shoot.

First grade coach Dale Eggleton has been more than impressed with Carmody's progress over the past two seasons and added, tongue in cheek, "I only wish our first graders could shoot like him."

He added that the youngster does have the ability to become another Coasties star of the future.

With the NSW Soccer Federations future competitions reverting to first grade and Under 19 only next season Carmody should be one the stars for the latter competition, that is if he is not playing first grade and teaching his more senior team-mates how to shoot, and score goals.

Keep a lookout for Nathan Carmody - you can't mistake him with his blonde hair and watch out for those 'piledrivers' - if you get hit by one you may end up in the net with the ball.

Ram Raid nets Macarthur a point at Gabbie

Just when Blacktown could have stamped their authority on the Super League table, they had an unexpected draw against Macarthur Rams at home, squandering an early 2-0 lead when they let Macarthur's Ben Willard put away too late strikes.

After Bonnyrigg's masterful display to win 1-4 at Plum Park against Central Coast, this puts the two traditional rivals neck-and-neck again in the race for Super League premiership honours, although Blacktown still have a game in hand.

Bonnyrigg were simply too fast, too good and too skilful for Central Coast who are struggling to find their early season form. Bonnyrigg's win included two goals from Colin Luff, who takes his season's tally to 18, just two behind Blacktown's Mark Hagger.

The big improvers of the last few weeks, Fairfield, had an impressive come-from-behind victory over Penrith Panthers who had led 0-2 going into the break. Fairfield came out firing in the second half

and scored a penalty through Matthew Borg within minutes of the re-start.

George Zabetakis equalised in the 78th and then delighted the Fairfield faithful with the winner just four minutes from full-time. The win puts Fairfield in sixth position, just four points out of the Top 5 and feeling confident. Next week's match against a rampaging St George will be a big test for the Fairfield side, particularly because St George will be feeling confident also after their 5-0 thrashing of Sutherland at Seymour Shaw Park.

This southern Sydney derby was a bit of a fizzer in terms of tension with Elias Augerinos putting St George in front in the 5th minute with goals coming at regular intervals thereafter.

Clearly, it's back to the drawing board for Sutherland who have been forced to draw on the depth of the youth at their disposal in recent rounds in an effort to break through for a win.

After a tight and goal-less first half, Canterbury Marrickville saw their finals

hopes effectively lost when Adam Anderson and Anthony Mitiga scored for Parramatta Eagles in the second half.

Bankstown had a shock 1-0 win over Leichhardt who failed to fire. It's the second consecutive win for new Bankstown coach, Billy McColl, who only took over two weeks ago.

The most promising moment for Leichhardt was a Steve Karavatakis effort which was saved by a desperate effort from the Bankstown 'keeper.

In the final match of the round, Eastern Suburbs held on to beat a battling Manly 2-1 at Wentworth Park after losing a player to a red card early in the second half.

Easts had led from goals by Sotiri Alexopoulos and Ben Deighan, before Kelvin Foster nailed a penalty for Manly Warringah in the 73rd minute.

Congratulations must go to Central Coast's Mark Drysdale who broke a Club record for the number of games with the Club, reaching 307 in their loss to

Super League top scorers

MARK HAGGER	BLACKTOWN	20
COLIN LUFF	BONNYRIGG	18
JOHNNY GHISNO	BONNYRIGG	16
STEVE KARAVATAKIS	LEICHHARDT	16
JIMMY ASCHNER	EASTS	15
ADAM ANDERSON	PARRAMATTA	15
MATTHEW BORG	FAIRFIELD	14
JIM BAKIS	ST GEORGE	12
NATHAN BYRN	CEN COAST	9
NIKOLCE JOSESKI	PARRAMATTA	9
MARK HOENSELAARS	FAIRFIELD	8

Bonnyrigg.

We understand that while Drysdale was disappointed with the Coasties performance against Bonnyrigg, he was consoled a little by Chelsea's win in the FA Cup.

Anderson and Boskovski lead the way

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 2
Anderson 62, Mittiga 71.
CANTERBURY M'CKVILLE 0
Sunday afternoon at Melita Stadium, Sydney.



By Jeremy Inson

A game of two halves' is one of football's oldest clichés. Yet on the evidence of this match it is undoubtedly one that is based on sound evidence. Whatever they put in the Eagles' half time drinks certainly did the trick.

It allowed Parramatta to rise above the mediocrity of the first half to win the match. Like Chelsea in the FA Cup Final the previous night, Parramatta Eagles took the match to Canterbury Marrickville in the second half and in doing so gained themselves a valuable three points.

In doing so they saved us all from the tedium that had been on display in the first forty-five minutes and sent their bunch of loyal supporters home happy.

At the start of the day six points separated ninth placed Canterbury from Parramatta, who occupied the fifth and final play-off berth. With finals aspirations for both clubs this was a must win game. Both teams were also hoping to inject some momentum into their seasons, following draws the previous weekend.

The teams transmitted this tension early in the first half. Neither side was able to control the play, let alone develop any sort of rhythm or pattern. Possession was quickly and needlessly squandered and a series of pointless free kicks were conceded as both sides sought in vain to inject some life into a match that was rapidly going downhill.

With hindsight the opening shot of the half was fairly indicative of proceedings to come. A strong run and cross from the right by Parramatta's Stephen Chipps was cleverly dumfied by striker Niko Joseski and ran into the path of Savo Boskovski. Sadly his shot lacked power and ran harmlessly into the hands of Canterbury keeper Bell-Ambo.

Ex-Sydney United and Northern Spirit schemer Abbas Saad provided the half's only bright spot. After ten minutes he rapidly controlled Vizari's right wing cross on the edge of the penalty area and after a quick spot of ball juggling, he fired the ball fractionally wide of Jason Holmes' right hand post.

The frenzied atmosphere meant that fouls were inevitably committed and with them bookings, all from the more physical Canterbury team. Raeburn, Mhrkopoulo, Nikas and Sidiratos all found their way into the book.

The last act of the half provided a fitting end,

Mark Reveley blasting a free kick into the wall, whilst the referee added an unnecessary and excruciating seven minutes of injury time.

As the second half started it was Parramatta

who was the more willing to take the game to their opposition. Canterbury, however, stayed faithful to their physical game, as they sought to outmuscle Parramatta.

Stephen Chipps' influence down the right wing saw two dangerous crosses into the Canterbury six-yard box, but no one was there to capitalise.

Mark Reveley and substitute Tom Bazdaric tried their luck from outside of the area, but neither troubled the Canterbury keeper.

After 62 minutes though, Parramatta's persistence paid off. Following a poor corner, Savo Boskovski picked out Adam Anderson in a crowded penalty area and, rising above everyone else, he headed home his fifteenth goal of the season.

Boskovski then almost turned from provider to scorer when he fired wide from just inside the penalty area. Taking this as their cue, Canterbury Marrickville finally found some life. Sidiratos twice went close to levelling the scores. A turn and shot went past the post and a diving header was well held by Jason Holmes.

Tsioumés then wasted a great opportunity. After beating the Holmes he was stopped not once, but twice, by the lunges of Boskovski.

A few minutes later, however, the match was all but over. A neat through ball from Anderson found Tony Mittia in the left side of the area, and after beating the defender, the left winger slotted the ball low into the net.

As time ran out there was still time for a moment of controversy. Following a run to the bye-line, substitute Alex Trpkoski's cross hit the underside of the cross bar, appeared to find the net, before bouncing down to be cleared.

With the match already won there was little protest from the Eagles, who, after taking the bold stance of playing soccer, were fully rewarded with their victory.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Holmes, Xureb (Bazdaric 28), Ryer, Meilak, Reveley, Anderson, Mittia, Joseski, Chipps (Aguilera 76), Boskovski, Borg.

CANTERBURY EAGLES: Bello-Ambo Raeburn, A.Molachino, Percy, S.Wells, J.Nikas, H.Mhrkopoulo, Sidiratos(Theodoropolous) Saad, Vizari (Tsioumos 22), P.Jonnoau.

Best Players:

3) SAVO BOSKOVSKI

2) Adam Anderson

1) Tony Mittia

Super League Tables

FIRST GRADE:	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS	19	13	3	3	55	18	42	37
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	20	14	0	6	56	37	42	19
St George Saints	19	11	3	5	37	22	36	15
Leichhardt Tigers	19	11	3	5	41	29	36	12
Parramatta Eagles	20	8	10	2	41	27	34	14
Fairfield Bulls	20	9	3	8	38	33	30	5
Central Coast Coasties	19	7	6	6	31	27	27	4
Bankstown City Lions	20	7	5	8	28	28	26	0
Canterbury Marrickville	20	8	1	11	29	44	25	-15
Eastern Subs Wanderers	20	7	1	12	34	46	22	-12
Macarthur Rams	20	4	7	9	23	30	19	-7
Penrith Panthers	19	5	3	11	23	46	18	-23
Sutherland Sharks	20	4	3	13	23	52	15	-29
Manly Warringah Dolphins	19	2	6	11	20	40	12	-20

UNDER 21	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS	19	13	4	2	52	21	43	31
Central Coast Coasties	19	13	2	4	37	19	41	18
Leichhardt Tigers	19	10	3	6	38	26	33	12
Penrith Panthers	19	10	2	7	33	26	32	7
Parramatta Eagles	20	7	6	7	25	24	27	1
Manly Warringah Dolphins	19	8	2	9	36	38	26	-2
Eastern Subs Wanderers	20	7	5	8	29	35	26	-6
Sutherland Sharks	20	7	5	8	33	41	26	-8
Canterbury Marrickville	20	7	3	10	30	39	24	-9
Macarthur Rams	20	7	3	10	26	40	24	-14
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	20	6	5	9	33	33	23	0
Fairfield Bulls	20	6	5	9	32	40	23	-8
St George Saints	19	6	4	9	29	36	22	-7
Bankstown City Lions	20	3	5	12	33	48	14	-15

UNDER 18	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
FAIRFIELD BULLS	20	15	1	4	42	22	46	20
Parramatta Eagles	20	14	3	3	55	23	45	32
Leichhardt Tigers	19	14	2	3	46	24	44	22
Blacktown City Demons	19	10	7	2	34	16	37	18
Sutherland Sharks	20	8	5	7	31	26	29	5
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	20	8	5	7	30	29	29	1
Central Coast Coasties	19	8	4	7	35	24	28	11
Macarthur Rams	20	7	7	6	29	26	28	3
Penrith Panthers	19	5	8	6	33	28	23	5
Eastern Subs Wanderers	20	6	5	9	31	46	23	-15
Bankstown City Lions	20	6	3	11	27	39	21	-12
St George Saints	19	3	5	11	23	54	14	-31
Manly Warringah Dolphins	19	3	2	14	18	38	11	-20
Canterbury Marrickville	20	0	3	17	12	51	3	-39

SUPER LEAGUE RESULTS

FIRST GRADE

SUTHERLAND SHARKS 0

ST GEORGE SAINTS 5

(E Augennos 5m G Maglis 20m M Papageorgiou 45m A Petratos 54m C Anagnostopoulos 76m)

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES 1

(S Knight 43m)

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES 4

(C Luff 4/20m B Green 29m L Gunn 64m)

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 2

(Nimaya 28m M Hagger 50m)

MACARTHUR RAMS 2

(B Willard 80/87m)

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 2

(A Anderson 62m T Mittiga 71m)

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE BERRIES 0

FAIRFIELD BULLS 3

(M Borg 47m pen G Zabetakis 78/86m)

PENRITH PANTHERS 2

(C Ackerley 19m M Driene 33m)

EASTERN SUBURBS WANDERERS 2

(S Alexopoulos 8m B Deighan 25m)

MANLY WARRINGAH DOLPHINS 1

(K Foster 73m pen)

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 1

(I McDonald 54m)

LEICHHARDT TIGERS 0

UNDER 21:

Sutherland Sharks 5

Central Coast Coasties 2

Blacktown City Demons 7

Parramatta Eagles 0

Fairfield Bulls 1

Eastern Suburbs 0

Bankstown City Lions 1

UNDER 18:

Sutherland Sharks 2

Central Coast Coasties 0

Blacktown City Demons 1

Parramatta Eagles 2

Fairfield Bulls 4

Eastern Suburbs 4

Bankstown City Lions 1

St George Saints 1

Bonnyrigg W. E. 1

Macarthur Rams 1

Canterbury M'ckville 0

Penrith Panthers 1

Manly Warringah 2

Leichhardt Tigers 2.

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE:

NSW Academy 1

Macarthur Rams 2

Manly Warringah Dolphins 0

Wollongong Wolves 1

Sutherland Sharks 5

GRADE 21:

Macarthur Rams 2

Manly Warringah Dolphins 0

Wollongong Wolves 0

Sutherland Sharks 4

Central Coast 1

Nepean Association 6

Northern NSW/HAS 2

Marconi 9

Gladesville Ravens 2

Nepean Association 1

Northern NSW/HAS 0

Marconi 2

Gladesville Ravens 1

SUPER LEAGUE ROUND TWENTY ONE

Official clothing supplier to the NSW Soccer Federation

Saturday 27 May

Bonnyrigg W. E. v Sutherland Sharks - Serbian Centre

Games 7.00pm (1st grade) - 5.00pm (21s) - 3.00pm (18s)

Macarthur Rams v Central Coast - Lynwood Park

Games 7.00pm (1st grade) - 5.00pm (21s) - 3.00pm (18s)

Sunday 28 May

St George Saints v Fairfield Bulls - St George Stadium

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Canterbury M'ckville v Blacktown City - Henson Park

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Leichhardt Tigers v Parramatta Eagles - Lambert Park

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Penrith Panthers v Eastern Suburbs - Andrews Field

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Manly Warringah v Bankstown City - Cromer Park

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

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DIVISION 1: FIRST GRADE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Dulwich Hill	12	9	3	0	25	17	30	8
Rockdale City Suns	12	7	1	4	25	9	22	16
Hajduk Wanderers	12	7	1	4	18	6	22	12
AC United	11	6	2	3	17	6	20	11
M.S.C. Liverpool	12	5	5	2	17	4	20	13
Stanmore Hawks	11	4	3	4	15	-1	15	16
Illawarra Lions	12	4	3	5	16	-2	15	18
Fraser Park	12	3	5	4	20	5	14	15
Hurstville City	12	3	5	4	16	0	14	16
Auburn United	11	3	3	5	17	-5	12	22
Bathurst '75	12	2	2	8	13	-21	8	34
Ryde City Gunners	11	0	1	10	9	-18	1	27

DIVISION 1: RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Hajduk Wanderers	12	8	4	0	41	36	28	5
AC United	11	6	3	2	30	19	21	11
Fraser Park	12	5	5	2	25	9	20	16
Dulwich Hill	12	6	1	5	28	6	19	22
Ryde City Gunners	11	6	1	4	21	6	19	15
M.S.C. Liverpool	12	4	5	3	17	2	17	15
Stanmore Hawks	11	4	4	3	25	15	16	10
Auburn United	11	5	1	5	18	-5	16	23
Hurstville City	12	4	3	5	23	9	15	14
Bathurst '75	12	3	4	5	20	-5	13	25
Rockdale City Suns	12	3	1	8	13	-19	10	32
Illawarra Lions	12	0	0	12	6	-73	0	79

DIVISION 1: U18's	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Hajduk Wanderers	12	8	3	1	25	15	27	10
M.S.C. Liverpool	12	8	2	2	37	26	26	11
Stanmore Hawks	11	7	3	1	27	23	24	4
AC United	11	7	3	1	34	21	24	13
Rockdale City Suns	12	7	3	2	25	9	24	16
Ryde City Gunners	11	7	1	3	34	18	22	16
Dulwich Hill	12	5	0	7	13	-12	15	25
Fraser Park	12	3	2	7	28	5	11	23
Bathurst '75	12	3	2	7	25	2	11	23
Hurstville City	12	3	1	8	12	-13	10	25
Auburn United	11	2	0	9	14	-43	6	57
Illawarra Lions	12	0	0	12	9	-51	0	60

DIVISION 2: FIRST GRADE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Greystanes	11	9	1	1	30	7	28	23
Mt Pritchard	11	7	1	3	15	9	22	6
Hurstville ZSC	12	6	3	3	20	13	21	7
Sydney University	11	6	2	3	27	16	20	11
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	10	4	4	2	18	17	16	1
Hills United	11	5	0	6	18	14	15	4
University Of NSW	12	4	3	5	15	17	15	-2
Belmore Hercules	10	5	0	5	17	20	15	-3
White City	12	4	2	6	28	26	14	2
Hakoah	11	4	1	6	24	23	13	1
Central Coast Lakers	10	3	0	7	15	25	9	-10
Sydney District	11	0	1	10	9	49	1	-40

DIVISION 2: RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Mt Pritchard	11	8	2	1	28	7	26	21
Hurstville ZSC	12	7	2	3	26	18	23	8
Sydney University	11	6	4	1	31	16	22	15
Hills United	11	5	6	0	37	7	21	30
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	10	6	2	2	19	13	20	6
Belmore Hercules	10	5	2	3	20	15	17	5
Central Coast Lakers	10	3	3	4	13	16	12	-3
University Of NSW	12	3	3	6	22	27	12	-5
Greystanes	11	2	4	5	19	16	10	3
Hakoah	11	2	3	6	21	28	9	-7
Sydney District	11	2	0	9	11	65	6	-54
White City	12	0	3	9	16	35	3	-19

DIVISION 2: U18's	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Mt Pritchard	11	9	2	0	32	9	29	23
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	11	8	3	0	22	4	27	18
Hurstville ZSC	11	7	0	4	29	14	21	15
Belmore Hercules	11	6	2	3	22	16	20	6
Hills United	11	6	1	4	21	14	19	7
Sydney University	10	3	4	3	12	9	13	3
Central Coast Lakers	10	3	4	3	16	15	13	1
Greystanes	11	3	1	7	12	22	10	-10
Hakoah	11	2	3	6	12	21	9	-9
University Of NSW	11	2	3	7	12	29	9	-17
Sydney District	10	1	2	7	11	30	5	-19
White City	9	1	1	7	11	29	4	-18

DIVISION 3: FIRST GRADE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Prairiewood United	12	10	2	0	31	9	32	22
Colo Colo	11	6	2	3	32	17	20	15
Western Sydney Lions	11	5	4	2	16	9	19	7
The Wanderers	11	5	3	3	33	19	18	14
Balmain	11	5	2	4	17	20	17	-3
Camden Tigers	11	4	4	3	24	19	16	5
Parramatta City	12	4	4	4	24	29	16	-5
Holy Cross Ryde	12	4	2	6	27	27	14	0
Nepean District	10	4	1	5	16	17	13	-1
Prospect United	11	4	1	6	24	30	13	-6
Liverpool City	12	2	1	9	17	43	7	-26
Trasandinos	10	0	2	8	11	33	2	-22

DIVISION 3: RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Western Sydney Lions	11	7	3	1	32	12	24	20
Balmain	11	7	2	2	36	15	23	21
Nepean District	10	7	2	1	27	8	23	19
Holy Cross Ryde	12	6	3	3	32	20	21	12
The Wanderers	11	5	3	3	25	20	18	5
Colo Colo	11	4	4	3	31	22	16	9
Trasandinos	10	5	1	4	19	33	16	-14

Camden Tigers	11	4	2	5	16	16	14	0
Prospect United	11	3	3	5	17	20	12	-3
Prairiewood United	12	3	2	7	18	30	11	-12
Parramatta City	12	3	1	8	24	28	10	-4
Liverpool City	12	0	0	12	9	62	0	-53

DIVISION 4: FIRST GRADE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
United Eagles	11	9	1	1	32	9	28	23
Sydney Crescent Star	11	7	1	3	45	26	22	19
Kellyville Kolts	10	7	1	2	28	9	22	19
Hawkesbury City	11	6	2	3	27	16	20	11
Granville Greenisland	10	6	0	4	22	24	18	-2
Marrickville	10	4	2	4	17	17	14	0
Auburn Star	10	4	2	4	21	26	14	-5
Eastern Creek Pioneers	8	4	0	4	18	14	12	4
Springwood	11	3	2	6	21	22	11	-1
CSI Schofields	10	3	0	7	14	32	9	-18
Sporting SCC	10	2	0	8	13	31	6	-18
Maroubra United	10	0	1	9	14	46	1	-32

DIVISION 4: RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
United Eagles	12	10	0	2	41	13	30	28
Eastern Creek Pioneers	9	6	2	1	17	9	20	8
Hawkesbury City	11	6	2	3	19	18	20	1
Sydney Crescent Star	11	6	1	4	34	22	19	12
Kellyville Kolts	10	5	3	2	30	9	18	21
Springwood	11	5	2	4	17	11	17	6
Sporting SCC	11	4	2	5	15	21	14	-6
Marrickville	10	4	2	4	15	24	14	-9
Maroubra United	11	3	1	7	19	29	10	-10
Granville Greenisland	11	3	1	7	13	34	10	-21
CSI Schofields	10	2	0	8	20	32	6	-12
Auburn Star	11	1	2	8	18	36	5	-18

DIVISION 5: FIRST GRADE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Bossy	12	8	2	2	47	10	26	37
UTS	10	8	2	0	40	7	26	33
Lithgow Workmen	11	7	1	3	39	21	22	18
Petersham	11	6	2	3	41	12	20	29
Kosciusko	12	6	2	4	37	25	20	12
Fairfield City	9	5	1	3	18	11	16	7
Liverpool Olympic	12	4	1	7	22	32	13	-10
West Sydney Passion	10	3	0	7	28	53	9	-25
Birrong Sports	11	1	2	8	15	47	5	-32
Hinchbrook Chiefs	12	0	1	11	14	83	1	-69

DIVISION 5: RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Petersham	11	8	3	0	37	7	27	30
Kosciusko	12	8	2	2	35	26	26	9
Liverpool Olympic	12	8	1	3	43	23	25	20
Bossy	12	7	4	1	33	17	25	16
UTS	11	6	1	4	17	13	19	4
Lithgow Workmen	11	4	2	5	30	16	14	14
Fairfield City	10	3	1	6	14	22	10	-8
Birrong Sports	11	3	0	8	16	33	9	-17
West Sydney Passion	10	1	0	9	16	45	3	-29
Hinchbrook Chiefs	12	1	0	11	5	44	3	-39

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Northern NSW/HAS	13	10	1	2	49	38	31	11
Marconi	13	9	2	2	59	50	29	9
Sutherland Sharks	13	9	2	2	35	23	29	12
NSW Inst Sport/Academy	12	7	2	3	27	16	23	11
Central Coast Lakers	12	5	3	4	18	-13	18	31
Manly Warringah Dolphins	12	4	3	5	22	5	15	17
Nepean Association	13	4	0	9	20	-20	12	40
Wollongong Wolves	13	3	3	7	13	-21	12	34
Gladesville Ravens	12	1	3	8	9	-30	6	39
Macarthur Rams	13	1	1	11	7	-48	4	55

WOMEN'S RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Northern NSW/HAS	13	10	1	2	49	38	31	11
Marconi	13	9	2	2	59	50	29	9
Sutherland Sharks	13	9	2	2	35	23	29	12
NSW Inst Sport/Academy	12	7	2	3	27	16	23	11
Central Coast Lakers	12	5	3	4	18	-13	18	31
Manly Warringah Dolphins	12	4	3	5	22	5	15	17
Nepean Association	13	4	0	9	20	-20	12	40
Wollongong Wolves	13	3	3	7	13	-21	12	34
Gladesville Ravens	12	1	3	8	9	-30	6	39
Macarthur Rams	13	1	1	11	7	-48	4	55

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Hajduk Wanderers	11	11	0	0	56	7	49	33
Gladesville Hornsby Koalas	10	7	0	3	34	9	25	21
Bathurst City	10	5	1	4	28	15	13	16
St George Association	10	5	1	4	20	15	5	16
UTS	11	5	1	5	20	24	-4	16
Roseland Raptors	10	4	1	5	25	25	0	13
Inter Lions	10	1	1	8	9	38	-29	4
CSI Schofields	10	0	1	9	1	60	-59	1

NSW RESULTS

Youth Div. 1 - U13	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Southern Branch	13	12	0	1	62	5	36	57
Rockdale City Suns	12	7	3	2	28	10	24	18
AC United	11	7	0	4	23	12	21	11
Hills United	12	6	2	4	22	9	20	13
Ryde City	11	6	2	3	32	22	20	10
Illawarra Lions	11	6	2	3	24	21	20	3
Blacktown Association	11	6	1	4	17	14	19	3
Hajduk Wanderers	11	5	1	5	15	15	16	0
Nepean Association	11	3	0	8	7	16	9	-9
Stanmore Hawks	12	1	2	9	14	48	5	-34
Canterbury Association	11	1	2	8	10	53	5	-43
Mt Pritchard	12	1	1	10	9	38	4	-29

Youth Div. 1 - U14	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Illawarra Lions	11	8	1	2	25	8	25	17
Hajduk Wanderers	11	7	2	2	16	10	23	6
Blacktown Association	11	7	0	4	31	14	21	17
Southern Branch	13	6	2	5	28	18	20	10
Nepean Association	11	6	2	3	17	8	20	9
Hills United	12	6	2	4	19	13	20	6
Ryde City	11	5	3	3	18	19	18	-1
AC United	11	4	3	4	17	17	15	0
Mt Pritchard	12	4	3	5	14	17	15	-3
Canterbury Association	11	2	2	7	8	21	8	-13
Rockdale City Suns	12	2	2	8	13	38	8	-25
Stanmore Hawks	12	0	2	10	8	31	2	-23

Youth Div. 1 - U15	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Southern Branch	13	8	5	0	31	14	29	17
Ryde City	11	9	1	1	27	10	28	17
AC United	11	6	1	4	29	19	19	10
Illawarra Lions	11	5	4	2	17	12	19	5
Mt Pritchard	12	6	1	5	15	15	19	0
Stanmore Hawks	12	5	1	6	15	17	16	-2
Hajduk Wanderers	11	3	5	3	19	14	14	5
Canterbury Association	11	4	2	5	14	20	14	-6
Rockdale City Suns	12	4	2	6	12	27	10	-15
Blacktown Association	11	1	5	5	12	19	8	-7
Hills United	12	1	4	7	9	19	7	-10
Nepean Association	11	1	3	7	12	26	6	-14

Youth Div. 1 - U16	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Southern Branch	13	8	3	2	27	8	19	27
Hajduk Wanderers	11	9	0	2	23	9	14	27
Illawarra Lions	11	8	2	1	25	10	15	25
AC United	10	8	1	1	19	3	16	25
Blacktown Association	11	7	0	4	28	13	15	21
Ryde City	11	4	2	5	19	20	-1	14
Mt Pritchard	12	4	1	7	21	20	1	13
Nepean Association	11	3	4	4	14	24	-10	13
Hills United	12	3	2	7	13	18	-5	11
Stanmore Hawks	11	2	4	5	12	17	-5	10
Canterbury Association	11	1	1	9	7	32	-25	4
Rockdale City Suns	12	1	0	11	10	44	-34	3

Youth Div. 2 - U13	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Central Coast Lakers	9	7	2	0	32	4	23	28
Camden Tigers	9	6	3	0	34	7	21	27
CSI Schofields	9	6	0	3	28	10	18	18
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	8	5	2	1	14	10	17	4
Hawkesbury City	9	4	0	5	18	16	12	2
Parramatta City	8	2	3	3	12	14	9	-2
M.S.C. Liverpool	8	2	2	4	20	14	8	6
Granville Association	10	2	1	7	10	43	7	-33
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	9	1	2	6	12	28	5	-16
Hurstville City	9	1	1	7	11	45	4	-34

Youth Div. 2 - U14	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Camden Tigers	9	8	1	0	25	1	25	24
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	9	6	2	1	32	6	20	26
Central Coast Lakers	9	5	1	3	26	8	16	18
Hawkesbury City	9	5	1	3	19	14	16	5
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	8	4	2	2	26	11	14	15
M.S.C. Liverpool	8	3	1	4	18	14	10	4
CSI Schofields	9	2	2	5	10	16	8	-8
Granville Association	10	2	2	6	13	37	8	-24
Parramatta City	8	1	1	6	4	28	4	-24
Hurstville City	9	1	1	7	6	44	4	-38

Youth Div. 2 - U15	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Granville Association	9	8	1	0	28	13	25	15
Central Coast Lakers	9	7	1	1	27	10	22	17
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	9	5	0	4	22	18	15	4
M.S.C. Liverpool	7	4	1	2	16	15	13	1
CSI Schofields	9	4	1	4	18	19	13	-1
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	8	3	1	4	16	11	10	5
Hawkesbury City	9	3	1	5	23	25	10	-2
Camden Tigers	9	2	2	5	11	19	8	-8
Hurstville City	9	2	0	7	11	25	6	-14
Parramatta City	8	1	0	7	7	24	3	-17

Youth Div. 2 - U16	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Parramatta City	8	8	0	0	37	4	24	33
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	8	8	1	1	16	2	19	14
Central Coast Lakers	9	5	2	2	18	13	17	5
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	9	4	3	2	11	5	15	6
Hawkesbury City	9	4	2	3	16	11	14	5
Camden Tigers	9	3	1	5	14	15	10	-1
Granville Association	9	3	1	5	11	18	10	-7
CSI Schofields	9	0	6	3	9	19	6	-10
M.S.C. Liverpool	7	1	1	5	3	17	4	-14
Hurstville City	9	0	1	8	6	37	1	-31

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE: FIRST GRADE: Fraser Park 0 M.S.C. Liverpool 0, Illawarra Lions 4 (S Kotevski 43m F Pellegrino 44m M Soper 46m A Mohseni 61m) Auburn United 3 (N Vares 52/77m E Demir 73m), Hajduk Wanderers 1 (J Anderson 58m) Dulwich Hill 3 (L Dounis 6m R Todorovski 80m R Nasser 87m), AC United 1 (A Araujo 24m) Ryde City Gunners 0, Rockdale City Suns 2 (S Kotevski 72m S Najdoski 87m) Bathurst '75 0, Stanmore Hawks 0 Hurstville City 0. **UNDER 21:** Fraser Park 3 M.S.C. Liverpool 0, Illawarra Lions 1 Auburn United 3, Hajduk Wanderers 5 Dulwich Hill 1, AC United 1 Ryde City Gunners 2, Rockdale City Suns 0 Bathurst '75 1, Stanmore Hawks 0 Hurstville City 1. **UNDER 18:** Fraser Park 0 M.S.C. Liverpool 0, Illawarra Lions 0 Auburn United 4, Hajduk Wanderers 2 Dulwich Hill 0, AC United 6 Ryde City Gunners 1, Rockdale City Suns 3 Bathurst '75 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 Hurstville City 0.

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO: FIRST GRADE: Sydney District 1 Hills United 3, Central Coast Lakers 1 Sydney University 2, Hurstville ZSC 0 University of NSW 1, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1 Greystanes 0, Mt Pritchard 1 Hakoah 0, Belmore Hercules 1 White City 3. **UNDER 21:** Hills United 4 Hurstville ZSC 0, Sydney District 0 Hills United 10, Central Coast Lakers 1 Sydney University 1, Hurstville ZSC 1 University of NSW 1, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1 Greystanes 0, Mt Pritchard 3 Hakoah 0, Belmore Hercules 2 White City 1. **UNDER 18:** Hills United 1 Hurstville ZSC 3, Sydney District 0 Hills United 6, Central Coast Lakers 1 Sydney University 1, Hurstville ZSC 4 University of NSW 1, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1 Greystanes 0, Mt Pritchard 4 Hakoah 1, Belmore Hercules 2 White City 0.

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE: FIRST GRADE: Western Sydney Lions 2 Parramatta City 3, Prospect United 2 Parramatta City 2, Liverpool City 1 Balmain 2, Colo Colo 2 The Wanderers 0, Holy Cross Ryde 1 Nepean District 2. Trasandinos 0 Camden Tigers 2, Western Sydney Lions 0 Prairiewood United 1. **RESERVE GRADE:** Western Sydney Lions 3 Parramatta City 0, Prospect United 1 Parramatta City 2, Liverpool City 1 Balmain 6, Colo Colo 2 The Wanderers 2, Holy Cross Ryde 0 Nepean District 4, Trasandinos 3 Camden Tigers 2, Western Sydney Lions 1 Prairiewood United 1.

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR: FIRST GRADE: Sporting SCC 1 Marrickville 6, Sporting SCC 0 Hawkesbury City 1, Granville Greenisland 3 Maroubra United 2, Marrickville 1 Auburn Star 1, United Eagles 2 Springwood 1, Eastern Creek Pioneers 3 CSI Schofields 1, Sydney Crescent Star 3 Kellyville Kolts 3. **RESERVE GRADE:** Sporting SCC 1 Marrickville 2, Sporting SCC 0 Hawkesbury City 2, Granville Greenisland 2 Maroubra United 1 Marrickville 3 Auburn Star 3, United Eagles 0 Springwood 4, Eastern Creek Pioneers 2 CSI Schofields 1, Sydney Crescent Star 3 Kellyville Kolts 1.

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE: FIRST GRADE: Birrong Sports 2 UTS 8, Hinchinbrook Juniors 0 Bossy 18, Hinchinbrook Juniors 5 Kosciuszko 7, Lithgow Workmen 1 Bossy 0, Liverpool Olympic 3 Birrong Sports 1, UTS 2 Fairfield City 0, Western Sydney Passion 0 Petersham 9. **RESERVE GRADE:** Birrong Sports 0 UTS 2, Hinchinbrook Juniors 0 Kosciuszko 3 (Win by Forfeit), Lithgow Workmen 1 Bossy 2, Liverpool Olympic 5 Birrong Sports 1, UTS 2 Fairfield City 0, Western Sydney Passion 0 Petersham 8.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE: FIRST GRADE: NSW Academy 1 Central Coast Lakers 1, Macarthur Rams 2 Nepean Association 6, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Northern NSW/HAS 2, Wollongong Wolves 1 Marconi 9, Sutherland Sharks 5 Gladesville Ravens 2. **GRADE 21:** Macarthur Rams 2 Nepean Association 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Northern NSW/HAS 0, Wollongong Wolves 0 Marconi 2, Sutherland Sharks 4 Gladesville Ravens 1.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: FIRST GRADE: Hajduk Wanderers 4 UTS 1, Bathurst City 3 CSI Schofields 0, Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 3 St George Association 0. **GRADE 19:** Hajduk Wanderers 2 UTS 0, Bathurst City 4 CSI Schofields 1, Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 0 St George Association 0.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: GRADE 13: Penrith Panthers 2 Leichhardt Tigers 2, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Marconi Stallions 2, Bankstown City 0 Sydney Olympic 0, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0 Sydney United 4, Fairfield Bulls 2 Northern Spirit 9, Sutherland Sharks 1 Bonnyng White Eagles 0, Wollongong Wolves 1 Macarthur Rams 3, Newcastle Breakers 0 St George 1, Central Coast Coasties 0 Parramatta Eagles 5, Canterbury Marrickville 0 Blacktown City Demons 8, Sydney United 0 Parramatta Eagles 1, Marconi Stallions 4 Central Coast Coasties 0.

GRADE 14: Penrith Panthers 1 Leichhardt Tigers 5, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Marconi Stallions 0, Bankstown City 2 Sydney Olympic 2, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0 Sydney United 2, Fairfield Bulls 0 Northern Spirit 4, Sutherland Sharks 2 Bonnyng White Eagles 2, Wollongong Wolves 4 Macarthur Rams 1, Newcastle Breakers 2 St George 0, Central Coast Coasties 0 Parramatta Eagles 1, Canterbury Marrickville 1 Blacktown City Demons 8, Sydney United 1 Parramatta Eagles 0, Marconi Stallions 6 Central Coast Coasties 0. **GRADE 15:** Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0 Sutherland Sharks 2, Penrith Panthers 1 Leichhardt Tigers 7, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Marconi Stallions 0, Bankstown City 1 Sydney Olympic 4, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 1 Sydney United 4, Fairfield Bulls 0 Northern Spirit 5, Sutherland Sharks 0 Bonnyng White Eagles 0, Wollongong Wolves 2 Macarthur Rams 0, Newcastle Breakers 2 St George 0, Central Coast Coasties 0 Parramatta Eagles 4, Canterbury Marrickville 0 Blacktown City Demons 1, Sydney United 0 Parramatta Eagles 1, Marconi Stallions 2 Central Coast Coasties 0. **GRADE 16:** Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0 Sutherland Sharks 4, Penrith Panthers 3 Leichhardt Tigers 4, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Marconi Stallions 4, Bankstown City 0 Sydney Olympic 2, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 1 Sydney United 1, Fairfield Bulls 1 Northern Spirit 0, Sutherland Sharks 3 Bonnyng White Eagles 1, Wollongong Wolves 1 Macarthur Rams 0, Newcastle Breakers 4 St George 0, Central Coast Coasties 0 Parramatta Eagles 4, Canterbury Marrickville 1 Blacktown City Demons 6, Sydney United 0 Parramatta Eagles 2, Marconi Stallions 9 Central Coast Coasties 1.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: GRADE 13: Blacktown Association 0 Southern Branch 2, Ryde City 0 Rockdale City Suns 8, AC United 2 Hills United 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 Illawarra Lions 7, Canterbury Association 4 Mt Pritchard 2, Nepean Association 1 Hajduk Wanderers 2, Hills United 0 Rockdale City Suns 1. **GRADE 14:** Blacktown Association 3 Southern Branch 1, Ryde City 2 Rockdale City Suns 0, AC United 1 Hills United 1, Stanmore Hawks 1 Illawarra Lions 2, Canterbury Association 1 Mt Pritchard 0, Nepean Association 0 Hajduk Wanderers 0, Hills United 4 Rockdale City Suns 0. **GRADE 15:** Blacktown Association 1 Southern Branch 1, Ryde City 2 Rockdale City Suns 0, AC United 4 Hills United 0, Stanmore Hawks 0 Illawarra Lions 3, Canterbury Association 0 Mt Pritchard 1, Nepean Association 2 Hajduk Wanderers 2, Hills United 1 Rockdale City Suns 1. **GRADE 16:** Blacktown Association 0 Southern Branch 1, Ryde City 3 Rockdale City Suns 0, AC United 1 Hills United 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 Illawarra Lions 3, Canterbury Association 0 Mt Pritchard 2, Nepean Association 0 Hajduk Wanderers 3, Hills United 3 Rockdale City Suns 0 (Win by Forfeit).

DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE: GRADE 13: M.S.C. Liverpool 8 Granville Association 0, Camden Tigers 1 Central Coast Lakers 1, CSI Schofields 5 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0, Granville Association 1 M.S.C. Liverpool 4, Hawkesbury City 0 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1, Hurstville City 0 Parramatta City 4. **GRADE 14:** M.S.C. Liverpool 5 Granville Association 0, Camden Tigers 1 Central Coast Lakers 0, CSI Schofields 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2, Granville Association 1 M.S.C. Liverpool 4, Hawkesbury City 2 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 3, Hurstville City 1 Parramatta City 0. **GRADE 15:** Camden Tigers 2 Central Coast Lakers 5, CSI Schofields 2 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Granville Association 1 M.S.C. Liverpool 0, Hawkesbury City 3 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2, Hurstville City 2 Parramatta City 1. **GRADE 16:** Camden Tigers 4 Central Coast Lakers 1, CSI Schofields 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Granville Association 3 M.S.C. Liverpool 0, Hawkesbury City 0 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1, Hurstville City 1 Parramatta City 6.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE: GRADE 11: Sydney United 1 Parramatta Eagles 0, Central Coast Coasties 0 Parramatta Eagles 2, Penrith Panthers 1 Leichhardt Tigers 2, Marconi Stallions 1 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, Bankstown City 1 Sydney Olympic 5, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 2 Sydney United 3, Fairfield Bulls 1 Northern Spirit 5, Sutherland Sharks 5 Bonnyng White Eagles 0, Wollongong Wolves 0 Macarthur Rams 3, Canterbury Marrickville 0 Blacktown City Demons 5. **GRADE 12:** Sydney United 0 Parramatta Eagles 0, Central Coast Coasties 2 Parramatta Eagles 0 Penrith Panthers 1 Leichhardt Tigers 1, Marconi Stallions 2 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1, Bankstown City 1 Sydney Olympic 0, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0 Sydney United 2, Fairfield Bulls 0 Northern Spirit 2, Sutherland Sharks 8 Bonnyng White Eagles 0, Wollongong Wolves 2 Macarthur Rams 0, Canterbury Marrickville 2 Blacktown City Demons 2.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: GRADE 11: M.D.S.F.A. Cadets 3 M.S.C. Liverpool 1, Illawarra Lions 1 Mt Pritchard 0, Central Coast Lakers 3 M.D.S.F.A. Cadets 0, AC United 2 Parramatta City 2, Central Coast Lakers 2 Mt Pritchard 2, CSI Schofields 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0, Hajduk Wanderers 1 M.S.C. Liverpool 0, Hawkesbury City 0 Illawarra Lions 4, Hills United 2 Hurstville City 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 Rockdale City Suns 1, Ryde City 3 M.D.S.F.A. Cadets 0. **GRADE 12:** M.D.S.F.A. Cadets 4 M.S.C. Liverpool 0, Illawarra Lions 1 Mt Pritchard 0, Central Coast Lakers 3 M.D.S.F.A. Cadets 0, AC United 1 Parramatta City 1, Central Coast Lakers 2 Mt Pritchard 0, CSI Schofields 2 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Hajduk Wanderers 0 M.S.C. Liverpool 1, Hawkesbury City 0 Illawarra Lions 4, Hills United 0 Hurstville City 0, Stanmore Hawks 2 Rockdale City Suns 1, Ryde City 2 M.D.S.F.A. Cadets 2.

Arok's return sparks Sharks

HEIDELBERG UNITED 1

Brown 30.

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 3

Mustafa 11, Tsolakis 59, 80.

Monday evening at the Olympic Village, Melbourne. Crowd: about 900.

Round Fourteen



Heidelberg's young keeper Manny Pappas had three goals put past him by the Sharks.

By Mark Fisher

The worst kept secret in the Victorian Premier League finally surfaced for all to see during Port Melbourne's visit to Olympic Village a week ago. Peter "Gus" Tsolakis duly stepped aside from his coaching role at Port Melbourne, to allow the venerable one, Frank Arok, the chance to arrest a near-critical slump in the form of the Sharks.

Sitting second last on the ladder, the contest against a resurgent Heidelberg might have lacked a definite flow, yet it still managed to produce four goals and half a dozen yellow cards nevertheless.

It was a game that saw up-and-coming striker Alfonso Opazo kept at bay largely due to tremendous marking by Nick Palamaras.

Opazo's only real chance came by way of a looping ball in the 8th minute, which fell in front of the nimble sharp-shooter on the left apex of the area.

The league's top scorer couldn't get his shot past an impressive Tony Lyras in goals, who effectively put his body between the ball and the net he guarded.

Only two minutes later the visitors had snatched the lead. John Pappas fired his corner perfectly towards the penalty spot. Mustafa Mustafa rose high above the rest to thread his header in between the goalkeeper Manny Pappas and a defender to his right. The Sharks were an early goal to the good.

Heidelberg's forward-cum-right back Gerry McAleer looked eager to do a bit of work in the middle early. Tsolakis for Port,

now relieved of managerial duties, looked to be back to his best on the park, with poise and a keenness to switch the play to expose the Bergers on the flanks, which he did to great effect.

George Angelos squandered a great chance to give the home side the lead in the 29th minute after McAleer delivered a dipping ball from the left, which bounced off the head of a defender and landed nicely in front of Angelos.

Lyras had reacted instantly by trying to get to the ball whilst it was momentarily airborne, to the effect that Angelos had himself an open goal. He, like his partner Opazo, also had to endure an off-night seeing his shot sail well over the bar from barely eight metres out.

At last an equaliser came when big midfielder Cameron Brown took advantage of another ball chipped into the area for the Bergers, and he calmly fired home whilst the goalkeeper and defenders looked around at each other in disappointment.

The scores stayed level until the 59th minute, when Port Melbourne's wingers truly exposed Heidelberg on the right wing in particular. Sonsini delivered quickly on the break to a sprinting Mustafa on the right, who crossed with precision to Tsolakis to head hard past the bewildered goalkeeper from five metres out.

Nick Tsaltas started to make the most of possession forward of the centre, and he also squeezed off a few shots at goal, mostly from the edge of the area and usually high and wide. Angelos at the other end also missed the target by a yard or more on occasions.

The icing on the cake for the Sharks came when midfielder Poutakidis danced around David De Propertis for Heidelberg on the left edge of the area, and then lifted

his centering ball for Tsolakis to bang past Manny Pappas with another titanium-plated header.

With a two goal cushion theirs, the Sharks endured a late Heidelberg surge at the opposite end to eventually take away a convincing 1-3 victory.

HEIDELBERG UNITED: Pappas M, Makris, McAleer, Brown, De Propertis, Mendjedovic, Di Iorio, Tsonis (Tsoumerkas), Opazo, Angelos, Cunningham.

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS: Lyras, Sonsini, Watson, Palamaras, Poutakidis, Tzirtsis, Vukosavljevic, Mustafa, Pappas J, Tsolakis, Tsaltas.

Best Players:
3. MUSTAFA (PORT MELBOURNE)
2. Palamaras (Port Melbourne)
1. Tsolakis (Port Melbourne)

FAWKNER BLUES 1

Sherifovski 42.

HEIDELBERG UNITED 1

Opazo 9.

Sunday afternoon at C.B. Smith Reserve, Melbourne. Crowd: about 500.

Round Fifteen



By Mark Fisher

Under perfect conditions Fawkner and Heidelberg put on a crackerjack display of end-to-end football, which delighted a small but riveted throng of fans at northern Melbourne's C.B. Smith Reserve.

Heidelberg got away more convincingly and controlled the game for the first twenty-five minutes. Alfonso Opazo showed that his form is slowly returning after a dry run over the last three weeks. He looked composed in the first half when he scored a goal that some at the ground believed came off the boot of partner-in-attack George Angelos.

In only the second minute of play work-horse Cameron Brown sent Opazo towards goal from the right corner. Opazo drifted into the box with John Grimaud in tow, yet the young striker's squared delivery didn't make it far, offering Fawkner's Maurice Gonzalez the simplest of takes.

Cesar Hermosilla set up the first goal of the game when he chipped into the area from the right, picking out Heidelberg's striking duo of Angelos and Opazo barely five metres out from the far post.

Opazo (pic above) turned and made the crucial contact with the ball, sending it well past the stationary goalkeeper and into the net. Heidelberg had the important early break.

Buoyed by that effort, the Bergers maintained pressure on the home side from the periphery of the area. David De Propertis saw Gonzalez punch his corner kick 20 metres out from goal. Sean Cunningham belted the ball inbound again, yet an unintentional header from one of his team-mates diverted the shot off its goal-bound trajectory, and the ball sailed high over the bar.

Hamstring-hampered Andrew Charalambous also chimed in by releasing Peter Di Iorio down the left wing, after a smooth run at goal by the Blues midfield was unravelled. Di Iorio played his cross from near the left corner post, finding the head of Opazo. The league's top marksman this time nudged the ball perilously close to the far post, evoking cries of exasperation from visiting Heidelberg fans. That chance might have won the day for the visitors had it gone in. With Fawkner still in the contest mid-way through the first half, they went for broke in an effort to pull one back.

As it turned out the Blues stole the ascendancy away from Heidelberg from that point onward. Peter Bordignon made headway through the middle and off-loaded forward to Ivan Duzel, who then sent Frank

Tramontana on a scurry down the right side of the pitch. Tramontana got to within a metre of the box before sending a bullet across the face of goal, and in doing so forcing man-of-the-match Robert Graskoski into a low covering save to his right.

Fawkner kept plenty of supply going down either flank, effectively keeping the Berger defence on its toes. Robert Stojcevski's well-weighted cross from the left was met with a powerful flat header from Peter Psarros, yet the chance was met with an equally brilliant reflex push-out by Graskoski.

The incessant toil in front of the Heidelberg net told in the 42nd minute, when Duzel sent a near post corner to Grimaud, who in turn neatly headed on to the far post to the loose man in Agim Sherifovski. The forward pounced to slot past Graskoski, enabling his team to clamber back on equal terms.

The second half began much like the first half ended. Fawkner did most of the pressing, with Heidelberg responding with blistering counter-attacks down the wings. It came as quite a surprise then that the best chance of the second period arrived via the set piece.

Bordignon brought down Di Iorio as he was carving up yards through the middle, in the 75th minute. At about 30 metres out from goal, De Propertis drilled the ensuing free kick straight into the crossbar, despite the goalkeeper Gonzalez appearing well-beaten by the strike.

Ivan Duzel and Joe Biskic then linked up late in the match to almost give the home side the result. On more than one occasion the amazing veteran

Biskic, who celebrated his 41st birthday last Saturday, got into position in line with the defence to get a final touch, but he could do little more than deflect the ball limply for the waiting arms of Graskoski, who gleefully cleaned up.

FAWKNER: Gonzalez, Tramontana, Stojcevski (Luci), Grimaud, Schipano, Murphy, Bordignon, Biskic, Psarros, Duzel, Sherifovski.

HEIDELBERG: Graskoski, Cunningham, Tsoumerkas, Di Iorio, Brown, De Propertis, Opazo, Hermosilla (Makris), Medjedovic, Angelos, Charalambous (McAleer).

Best Players:
3 - GRASKOSKI (HEIDELBERG)
2 - Duzel (Fawkner)
1 - Biskic (Fawkner)

VICTORIA PREMIER LEAGUE MONDAY NIGHT 29 MAY AT

OLYMPIC VILLAGE
CATALINA STREET, WEST HEIDELBERG
HEIDELBERG

UNITED

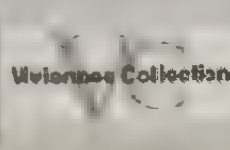
V
PRESTON

LIONS



8.15 (First Grade) 6.15 (Reserves)

This game is proudly brought to you by ...



Trifunov Magic almost spoils Gully's show

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 1

Marinos 82.

ALTONA MAGIC 1

Trifunov 45.

Sunday evening at the Green Gully Reserve, Kaalba. Crowd: 750.



By Markian Jaworsky

With seven rounds to go, few points separate each team from the next rung on the ladder. Except for one position; that one being the top.

But if recent form was anything to go by, Gully would not be so distinct. In fact Green Gully president, Charles Farrugia was quoted as saying: "We have had trouble scoring, we have gone bad lately..."

On the point of hunger and desperation of team members the Gully Prez added: "You can say all sorts of things to the players, it doesn't matter. It's not training, because Dobson trains these boys for three solid nights every week. It's certainly not a lack of player instructions. The only thing that can keep the players going is

competition within the team, it's the strength of your bench. When you are on top for so long, all teams lift against Gully."

Certainly at the season's end, teams like Altona East Phoenix will look back to when they beat Gully 2-0 away, and say 'look what we are capable of'.

How true those statements were. In the opening exchanges, Green Gully appeared sluggish as Altona's Toni Trifunov displayed a great touch of the ball, dribbling through the Gully defence.

Zoran Petrevski forced Robert Brian into a gutsy close range save and Jorge Jolevski hit the Gully bar all in the opening fifteen minutes.

Green Gully were just not in the contest in the opening half, their best effort came from defender Zoran Markovski.

On the 37 minute mark, some 35

yards from goal, Zoran lined-up a shot that whistled just past the post.

An effort John Markovski would have been proud of, and a shot Magic's goalkeeper Darren McGrath would have been thanking his lucky stars he did not have to stop.

With referee Perry Mur counting down the seconds to halftime, Magic were rewarded for their efforts. Jolevski crossed to an open Trifunov, who had time and space to shoot into the back of the net.

A furious Charles Farrugia commented "He (Ian Dobson - Green Gully coach) will blast them alright... Woeful defending."

It was drastic action that Dobson did take, substituting Green Gully's key midfielders Sonny Sevin and George Svigos for Nick Marinos and Brandon Vassallo respectively.

On it was the substitutes who turned the match in Green Gully's favour. On 52 minutes, Vassallo's solo run on the right wing opened up a passage into penalty box and shot that hit the side netting.

Georgiadis played a delightful through ball to Marinos who blasted his shot into the post, only to be called back for a narrow offside decision. With barely ten minutes to play, Nick Papadopoulos swung in his corner, which fell for Becvinovski, his shot was blocked but there was Marinos to blast in the rebound and get Gully their equalizer.

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS: Brian, Antanasovski, Georgiadis, Necesi (Suric 66), Papadopoulos, Sevin (Vassallo 45), Markovski, Svigos (Marinos 45), Douglas, Becvinovski,



Brendan Vassallo: the Green Gully sub came on with Nick Marinos and managed to lift the league leaders. The game ended up 1-1 against Altona Magic

Spiteri.

ALTONA MAGIC: McGrath, Cvetanovski, Jolevski, Angelevski (Mrkela 23), Micevski, Lisolajski, Trifunov, Nedanovski, Petrevski, Todorovski, Cergovski.

Referee: Perry Mur

Yellow: Green Gully: Douglas 65.

Man of the Match:
3. TONI TRIFUNOV (ALTONA MAGIC)
2. Nick Marinos (Green Gully)
1. Brandon Vassallo (Green Gully)

VPL RESULTS

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 0
ST ALBANS SAINTS 0

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 2
Alagiozidis, Pino.
MELBOURNE RAIDERS 4
Boschini, El Kersh, Plunkett, Salievski.

ALTONA EAST PHOENIX 3
Dimitrelos, Papadopoulos, Genovesi.
BENTLEIGH GREENS 0

PRESTON LIONS 0
BULLEEN ZEBRAS 1
Gnjidic.

FAWKNER BLUES 1
Sherifovski.
HEIDELBERG UNITED 1
Opazo .

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 1
Marinos.
ALTONA MAGIC 1
Trifunov

RESERVES:

Port Melbourne 2	St Albans 1
Oakleigh Cannons 4	Melbourne R'ders 3
Altona East 0	Bentleigh Greens 0
Preston Lions 2	Bulleen Zebras 5
Fawkner Blues 2	Heidelberg United 1
Green Gully Cav 3	Altona Magic 3

FIRST GRADE	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS	14	9	3	2	27	10	30
BENTLEIGH GREENS	15	7	4	4	21	16	25
ST. ALBANS SAINTS	15	6	6	3	25	16	24
ALTONA EAST PHOENIX	15	7	3	5	20	21	24
BULLEEN ZEBRAS	15	6	4	5	21	21	22
ALTONA MAGIC	14	5	5	4	17	17	20
PRESTON LIONS	15	5	4	6	18	18	19
FAWKNER BLUES	15	3	7	5	15	17	16
PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS	15	4	4	7	23	28	16
HEIDELBERG UNITED	15	4	3	8	21	28	15
OAKLEIGH CANNONS	15	3	6	6	23	32	15
MELBOURNE RAIDERS	15	3	5	7	18	25	14

RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS	14	10	2	2	45	15	32
PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS	15	8	3	4	33	29	27
BENTLEIGH GREENS	15	8	2	5	43	23	26
BULLEEN ZEBRAS	15	6	4	5	45	31	22
ST. ALBANS SAINTS	15	5	6	4	31	27	21
FAWKNER BLUES	15	5	5	5	31	36	20
ALTONA EAST PHOENIX	15	5	4	6	24	27	19
ALTONA MAGIC	14	5	4	5	31	35	19
PRESTON LIONS	15	4	6	5	33	33	18
OAKLEIGH CANNONS	15	5	3	7	25	42	18
MELBOURNE RAIDERS	15	3	6	6	29	43	15
HEIDELBERG UNITED	15	1	3	11	16	45	6

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

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X

ROUND SIXTEEN

Friday 26 May

Oakleigh Cannons v Green Gully - Jack Edwards Reserve
8.15 (First Grade) / 6.15 (Reserves)

Saturday 27 May

Altona Magic v Port Melbourne Sharks - Paisley Reserve
7.00 (First Grade) / 5.00 (Reserves)

Sunday 28 May

St Albans Saints v Fawkner Blues - Churchill Reserve
3.00 (First Grade) / 1.00 (Reserves)

Bulleen Zebras v Altona East - Veneto Club
3.00 (First Grade) / 1.00 (Reserves)

Monday 29 May

Melbourne Raiders v Bentleigh Greens - Epping Soccer Stadium
3.00 (First Grade) / 1.00 (Reserves)

Heidelberg United v Preston Lions - Olympic Village
8.15 (First Grade) / 6.15 (Reserves)

CRAZY JOHN'S VICTORIA RESULTS

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1: Firsts: Rd 8: Westgate 0 Frankston Pines 4 (Keenan S, Lewis C (2), Lettman T), Yarraville Glory 0 Richmond 1 (Muresc S), Essendon 0 Western Suburbs 1 (Alexopoulos N), Doncaster Rovers 4 (Sprekos A, Tribuzo S, Romanovski Z (2), Sunshine Georgies 3 (Kanesoulis J, Buttigieg D), Westvale 1 (Goutzioulis A) Lalor United 1 (Ugunovski T), Spring, White Eagles 1 (Pardo A) South Dandenong 2 (Grella D, Zelonga F)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1: Reserves: Rd 8: Westgate 0 Frankston Pines 0, Yarraville Glory 1 Richmond 2, Essendon 1 Western Suburbs 2, Doncaster Rovers 4 Sunshine Georgies 0, Westvale 1 Lalor United 0, Spring, White Eagles 0 South Dandenong 0

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 NW: Firsts: Rd 8: Fitzroy City 3 (Nikolic M, Maljanek M (2)) Whittlesea Stallions 0, North Coburg United 2 (Uyanik A (2)) Melbourne City 1 (Romero V), Satellite City Rov'S 3 (Hulusi S, Kasapis E, Ilevski J) Nth Geelong Warriors 1 (Besel D), Diamond Valley Utd 0 Moreland City 2 (Bisotto M, Wight S), Geelong 2 (Rakic C, Kules R) Northcote City 0, Altona City 1 (Tomic Z) Werribee City 5 (Sammarino A (3), Bos J, Vela A)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 NW: Reserves: Rd 8: Fitzroy City 2 Whittlesea Stallions 1, North Coburg United 7 Melbourne City 1, Satellite City Rov'S 7 Nth Geelong Warriors 0, Diamond Valley Utd 5 Moreland City 3, Geelong 1 Northcote City 3, Altona City 0 Werribee City 1

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 SE: Firsts: Rd 8: Springvale City 5 (Orlando M (2), Ciccarelli S, Rosa A, De Luca M) Stonnington City 2 (Gogos S, Papaluca S), Croydon City Arrows 1 (Aldcroft D) Kingston City 4 (Babatsas G (2), Tzintzis P), East Richmond 2 (Diamantopoulos D) Ringwood City 0, South Wantirna 1 (Carlaganis N) South Springvale 0, Cranbourne Comets 0 Old Scotch Waverley 0, Frankston Strikers 0 Knox City 0

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 SE: Reserves: Rd 8: Springvale City 7 Stonnington City 0, Croydon City Arrows 1 Kingston City 0, East Richmond 4 Ringwood City 0, South Wantirna 0 South Springvale 0, Cranbourne Comets 8 Old Scotch Waverley 0, Frankston Strikers 1 Knox City 1

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 NW: Firsts: Rd 8: Laverton Park 1 (De La Plaza V) Geelong Rangers 0, Croxton Park 2 (Femic E (2)) Lalor 0, Sunbury United 3 (Turnbull G, Rocca M, Lewis R) Corio 3 (Biscan I (2), Leban S), North City Lions 2 (Giordano A, Kaloudis J) Williamstown 1 (Agus S), Bell Park 2 (Reed A) Melton 0, Pascoe Vale 1 (Nikolovski R) Keilor Park 2 (B Dlo A, Zaffarano V)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 NW: Reserves: Rd 8: Laverton Park 2 Geelong Rangers 0, Croxton Park 0 Lalor 3, Sunbury United 1 Corio 2, North City Lions 1 Williamstown 1, Bell Park 2 Melton 1, Pascoe Vale 1 Keilor Park 5

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 SE: Firsts: Rd 8: Keysborough 1 (Didonson J) Sandringham City 3 (Cetnic K, Hill R, Whetton R), Langwarrin 4 (Caffrey B, Brisbane G, Caffrey L) Seaford United 2 (Lancaster A, Lancaster J), Chelsea 2 (Mung F, Raiz A) Nunawading City 1 (Zlatanovski T), Morwell Pegasus 3 (Collins A, Bitar R, Koppen J) Banyule City 0, Endeavour United 2 (Carvalho F, Florido J) Mooroolbark 1 (Furnell P), Clifton Hill United 1 (Hincopoulos G) Lyndale United 0

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 SE: Reserves: Rd 8: Keysborough 1 Sandringham City 1, Langwarrin 3 Seaford United 1, Chelsea 0 Nunawading City 1, Morwell Pegasus 4 Banyule City 0, Endeavour United 1 Mooroolbark 1, Clifton Hill United 6 Lyndale United 2

2000 PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 1: Firsts: Rd 8: Sydenham Park 2 (Pazesi S, Grodzanovski T) Springvale Condors 0, Mitcham United 1 (Budd M) Hoppers Crossing 3 (Smart K, Murray S, Lowe S) Brunswick City 1 (Nicolopoulos S) Elwood City 0, Riversdale 0 Templestowe Eagles 0, Nth Sunshine Eagles 3 (Rustemovski L (2), Zozovski T) Monbulk 0, Clayton 0 Doveton 1 (Sonn M)

2000 PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 1: Reserves: Rd 8: Sydenham Park 4 Springvale Condors 5, Mitcham United 1 Hoppers Crossing 0, Brunswick City 5 Elwood City 0, Riversdale 0 Templestowe Eagles 0, Nth Sunshine Eagles 1 Monbulk 5, Clayton 6 Doveton 1

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 2 NW: Firsts: Rd 8: Keon Park 2 (Rousalis T, Papanastasiou S) South Yarra 1 (Nash A), Uni. Of Melbourne 1 (Ryan M) Whittlesea United 1 (Sancakutan M), Ballarat 0 Somerton City 2 (Senbay D, Baykan S), Broadmeadows United 2 (Koc E (2)) Moreland United 0, Darebin United 1 (Belles A) Mill Park 0, Glenroy 1 (Filipovic J) Melbourne University 4 (Dimitropoulos S (2), King B)

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 2 NW: Reserves: Rd 8: Keon Park 1 South Yarra 3, Uni. Of Melbourne 1 Whittlesea United 0, Ballarat 2 Somerton City 2, Broadmeadows United 3 Moreland United 1, Darebin United 6 Mill Park 1, Glenroy 4 Melbourne University 2

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 2 SE: Firsts: Rd 8: South Caulfield 1 (Amato A) Waverley Wanderers 5 (Apostolopoulos A, Gamaras T, Ikonomou P, Nicovski R), Heatherton United 3 (Ugarak S (2), Bonc S) Dandenong Inter 3 (Rojas A, Espinoza C, Flores N), Ashburton 2 (Jackson B) Noble Park United 5 (Maksimovic D, Rogonjic V, Kozica N, Varagic V), Braeside United 0 Newborough/Yallourn 5 (Hodkinson D (3), Orr G (2)), Brandon Park 4 (Kahrabi B, Arzadian A (3)) Dingley City 2 (De Sovail M, Blit M), Dandenong 1 (Angulo V) North Caulfield 1 (Harel O)

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 2 SE: Reserves: Rd 8: South Caulfield 0 Waverley Wanderers 10, Heatherton United 3 Dandenong Inter 0, Ashburton 1 Noble Park United 1, Braeside United 3 Newborough/Yallourn 0, Brandon Park 2 Dingley City 2, Dandenong 3 North Caulfield 2

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 3 NW: Firsts: Rd 8: Keilor United 2 (Lakic B, Trifiletti D) Northern United 0, Meadow Park 2 (Zucarelli S, Urquhart D) Western Eagles 5 (Krysinski R, Devoc I (3), Czenwinski M), West Preston 1 (Karatzafens J) Flemington Falcons 3 (Miles J (2)), Brimbank 1 (Pedulla J) Ascot Vale 1 (Mejia I), Watsonia Heights 1 (Popovski N) New South Port Utd 2 (Temion A, Bajraktari H), Brimbank City 0 Preston South 3 (Vasilesko G (2), Paunkoski T)

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 3 NW: Reserves: Rd 8: Keilor United 2 Northern United 0, Meadow Park 1 Western Eagles 2, West Preston 0 Flemington Falcons 4, Brimbank 2 Ascot Vale 0, Watsonia Heights 2 New South Port Utd 3, Brimbank City 2 Preston South 6

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 3 SE: Firsts: Rd 8: Noble Park 2 (Filipovic G, Blazevski Z) Berwick Kings 1, Thornbury United 2 (Formose C (2), Parkmore R) Beaumarsh 4 (Lester B (4)) Monash University 2, Costasas G, Sandman W), Old Melbourneians 1 Old Camberwell Gramm 1 (Shewan M), Endeavour Hills 2 (Files A, Vydelingum J) Collingwood City 1 (Papas P) La Trobe University 8 (Theodossiadis B (5), Rades P (3)) Rowville Eagles 2 (Puscasu D (2))

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 3 SE: Reserves: Rd 8: Noble Park 1 Berwick Kings 3, Thornbury United 3 Parkmore 1, Beaumarsh 2 Monash University 0, Old Melbourneians 1 Old Camberwell Gramm 4, Endeavour Hills 1 Collingwood City 2, La Trobe University 2 Rowville Eagles 1

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1:

FIRSTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Dandenong	8	7	0	1	30	9	21
Westvale	8	5	3	0	26	11	18
Lalor United	8	5	1	2	14	9	16
Essendon	8	5	1	2	14	10	16
Frankston Pines	8	4	1	3	16	15	13
Western Suburbs	8	4	13	1	11	11	3
Yarraville Glory	8	3	1	4	14	19	10
Richmond	8	3	1	4	9	15	10
Doncaster Rovers	8	2	2	4	15	17	8
Spring, White Eagles	8	0	3	5	5	14	3
Sunshine Georgies	8	2	0	6	9	20	3
Westgate	8	0	0	7	9	22	3

RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Dandenong	8	6	1	1	17	7	19
Frankston Pines	8	5	2	1	21	7	17
Richmond	8	5	2	1	20	10	17
Essendon	8	5	0	3	23	14	15
Doncaster Rovers	8	4	2	2	16	9	14
Westgate	8	4	1	3	14	11	13
Sunshine Georgies	8	5	0	3	16	15	12
Yarraville Glory	8	3	1	4	16	23	10
Westvale	8	2	1	5	8	14	7
Western Suburbs	8	2	0	6	14	22	6
Spring, White Eagles	8	1	1	6	9	25	4
Lalor United	8	0	1	7	3	20	1

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 NW:

FIRSTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Fitzroy City	8	7	1	0	29	5	22
North Coburg United	8	7	0	1	17	7	21
Whittlesea Stallions	8	6	1	1	17	11	19
Satellite City Rov'S	8	5	3	0	19	4	18
Geelong	8	3	3	2	11	7	12
Diamond Valley Utd	8	3	2	3	9	9	11
Moreland City	8	3	0	5	13	21	9
Nth Geelong Warriors	8	2	1	5	17	16	7
Northcote City	8	1	3	4	9	13	6
Melbourne City	8	1	2	5	8	19	5
Werribee City	8	1	2	5	13	25	2
Altona City	8	0	0	8	8	30	-3

RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Satellite City Rov'S	8	8	0	0	31	8	24
Diamond Valley Utd	8	6	1	1	30	11	19
Whittlesea Stallions	8	6	0	2	32	9	18
Fitzroy City	8	5	2	1	23	12	17
Northcote City	8	5	1	2	20	14	16
North Coburg United	8	4	0	4	32	18	12
Moreland City	8	3	0	5	18	18	9
Geelong	8	2	1	5	11	21	7
Nth Geelong Warriors	8	1	2	5	11	34	5
Melbourne City	8	1	1	6	13	27	4
Werribee City	8	1	1	6	5	27	1
Altona City	8	1	1	6	18	45	1

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 SE:

FIRSTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Cranbourne Comets	8	5	2	1	21	9	17
Knox City	7	5	2	0	16	4	17
Frankston Strikers	8	4	4	0	21	11	16
Kingston City	8	5	1	2	17	8	16
South Springvale	8	4	1	3	12	7	13
Springvale City	8	3	3	2	18	14	12
East Richmond	8	3	0	5	9	14	9
Croydon City Arrows	8	2	2	4	11	12	8
South Wantirna	7	2	2	3	9	18	8
Old Scotch Waverley	8	1	4	3	6	8	7
Stonnington City	8	1	3	4	10	13	6
Ringwood City	8	0	0	8	13	3	-3

RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Kingston City	8	6	1	1	27	8	19
Cranbourne Comets	8	6	1	1	25	8	19
Old Scotch Waverley	8	6	1	1	11	11	19
South Springvale	8	5	2	1	14	5	17
Croydon City Arrows	8	4	1	3	13	11	13
East Richmond	8	2	4	2	17	15	10
Springvale City	8	2	3	3	15	10	9
Knox City	7	2	2	3	18	10	8
Frankston Strikers	8	1	3	4	12	13	6
Stonnington City	8	1	2	5	5	19	5
South Wantirna	7	0	2	5	6	27	2
Ringwood City	8	0	2	6	2	28	-1

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 NW:

FIRSTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bell Park	8	6	1	1	15	6	19
Croxton Park	8	5	2	1	20	7	17
Lalor	8	4	2	2	10	7	14
Pascoe Vale	8	4	1	3	18	14	13
Laverton Park	8	4	0	4	12	10	12
Keilor Park	8	3	2	3	11	10	11
Williamstown	8	3	2	3	8	11	11
Melton	8	3	2	3	10	11	11
North City Lions	8	3	1	4	10	18	10
Corio	8	2	3	3	14	13	9
Sunbury United	8	0	3	5	10	18	3
Geelong Rangers	8	0	3	5	6	22	3

RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
North City Lions	8	7	1	0	32	3	22
Keilor Park	8	5	2	1	30	7	17
Corio	8	5	2	1	15	7	17
Laverton Park	8	5	1	2	16	9	16
Bell Park	8	5	0	3	16	18	15
Pascoe Vale	8	4	1	3	20	14	13
Melton	8	4	1	3	14	12	13
Geelong Rangers	8	4	0	4	13	28	12
Lalor	8	2	1	5	10	17	7
Williamstown	8	1	1	6	13	22	4
Croxton Park	8	1	0	7	6	25	3
Sunbury United	8	0	0	8	6	29	0

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 SE:

FIRSTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	8	7	0	1	23	9	21
Endeavour United	8	5	1	2	16	10	16
Chelsea	8	4	3	1	18	12	15
Morwell Pegasus	8	4	2	2	18	11	14
Lyndale United	8	4	2	2	14	12	14
Keysborough	8	4	1	3	15	11	13
Clifton Hill United	8	3	3	2	12	14	12
Sandringham City	8	3	1	4	15	17	10
Nunawading City	8	1	2	5	12	16	5
Banyule City	8	1	2	5	9	19	5
Mooroolbark	8	1	2	5	8	18	5
Seaford United	8	1	1	6	9	20	4

RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sandringham City	8	6	2	0	26	7	20
Langwarrin	8	5	2	1	23	12	17
Morwell Pegasus	8	5	0	3	12	7	15
Clifton Hill United	8	3	3	2	17	9	12
Chelsea	8	3	2	3	8	8	11
Nunawading City	8	3	2	3	11	18	11
Keysborough	8	1	7	0	13	9	10
Mooroolbark	8	2	4	2	10	11	10
Lyndale United	8	2	1	5	20	23	7
Seaford United	8	1	3	4	8	18	6
Endeavour United	8	1	3	4	6	23	6
Banyule City	8	0	3	5	4	13	3

2000 PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 1:

FIRSTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hoppers Crossing	8	6	0	2	19	14	18
Doveton	8	5	2	1	18	12	17
Monbulk	8	5	1	2	19	11	16
Nth Sunshine Eagles	8	5	0	3	23	14	15
Brunswick City	8	5	0	3	15	10	15
Sydenham Park	8	3	2	3	14	12	11
Elwood City	8	3	2	3	13	14	11
Clayton	8	3	0	5	10	13	9
Mitcham United	8	3	0	5	13	23	9
Templestowe Eagles	8	3	2	3	20	15	8
Riversdale	8	2	1	5	7	9	7
Springvale Condors	8	0	0	8	4	28	-3

Kiwis have it all to do in South Africa

By Jeremy Ruane

In a match which remained true to the traditional sporting rivalry which exists between New Zealand and South Africa, the two nations' Under-23 soccer teams turned on a pulsating display of open, uninhibited football at North Harbour Stadium on May 19, the visitors winning the first leg of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Qualifying play-off 3-2 in front of 13,500 captivated spectators.

The first half was an absolutely sparkling affair, the shackles of defence-minded football, so often the first objective in international soccer, cast aside by both combinations, much to the delight of the gathered throngs, who witnessed an enthralling free-flowing encounter between two sides with all to play for.

Two long-range efforts in the first ten minutes from Jeff Campbell - both saved by Emille Baron - set the crowd alight, as the OlyWhites set the early pace. And after captain Ryan Nelsen sent a looping header from a Campbell corner onto the roof of the net in the eleventh minute, the masses sensed something special was on.

Sure enough, within two minutes, the OlyWhites were in front. Chris Killen's splendid through ball released Paul Urlovic at pace through a ragged South African defence. He picked his spot past Baron, and planted the ball with venom aplenty into the net defended by

Amagluglug, the nickname of the South African Olympic side.

Reeling from this opening onslaught, the highly-rated South Africans' first genuine opening came as a result of a stumble by John Foundoulakis in the nineteenth minute. Siyabonga Nomvethé didn't need asking twice, and away he scooted down the left, only to be thwarted by Nelsen's superbly timed tackle.

A corner resulted, and from it, South Africa equalised. Dillon Sheppard's initial effort was cleared back to him, and he curled in an inviting cross which Celta Vigo striker Benedict McCarthy darted in between static defenders to reach, his header leaving OlyWhites' keeper Chris Marsh beaten all ends up.

It prompted Amagluglug to charge forward once more, McCarthy the man leading the charge. He breached the off-side trap on the right flank, and looked up to find two players in support, one of whom was Quinton Fortune.

Marsh was given little chance by the midfielder, who swept the ball home to put South Africa 2-1 in front after just 26 minutes.

The visitors' lead lasted a mere five minutes. Campbell and Killen combined on the right, with the former delivering a somewhat harmless-looking cross, until ... Baron, a goalkeeper at Norwegian club Lillestrom, careered off his line to gather the ball; defender Fabian McCarthy rose to head it back to him ... the sight of the ball bouncing slowly but gently into the

unguarded net as Baron and McCarthy looked on in horror was oh so sweet to the eyes of many a New Zealand sports fan!!

Three minutes later, Nomvethé had the ball in the net, beating Marsh from close-range after Fortune had laid the ball across to him, the midfielder having evaded the OlyWhites' offside trap by timing his run perfectly to latch onto Aaron Mokoena's long ball over the top. In his eagerness to score, however, Nomvethé had strayed offside - 2-2 the score remained.

Unperturbed, the visitors battled on, Benedict McCarthy having bamboozled a couple of defenders en route to the byline in the 55th minute, from where he rolled the ball back to Nomvethé. He couldn't believe his luck, however, as Marsh pulled off a fabulous save at point-blank range to keep the scores level.

Back came the OlyWhites, de Gregorio leading the charge in the 63rd minute. Fortune favoured him as the ball bounced kindly off his shins following two challenges, and he ploughed on into the penalty area. South African captain Matthew Booth came across and executed a somewhat clumsy tackle from an angle behind the midfielder, turf, legs and a ball flying in all directions as a result.

Unbelievably, referee Sabillon saw fit to allow play to continue, Nomvethé and Jabu Pule having worked a double one-two to turn defence into attack at lightning speed. Nomvethé was thwarted by Marsh once more, the 'keeper turning the close-

range effort past the post for a corner. Hickey, waiting to re-enter the field after treatment was ready to return to the fray, but referee Sabillon ignored his assistant's signals, instead allowing Pule to deliver the corner.

It's debatable whether or not New Zealand would have cleared the corner with eleven men, but with ten, they didn't, as Booth, the target of the set-piece, rose high to head the ball down and goalwards. Marsh dived to his right and got the heel of his hand to it, but the spin on the sphere took it behind the prone 'keeper and over the line for what proved to be the match-winning goal with just two minutes' running time remaining.

It wasn't quite over, however, the OlyWhites rampaging back onto attack in the dying stages in search of another equaliser. It wasn't to be, however.

OLYWHITES: Marsh; Foundoulakis, Nelsen, Rowe; Davis (Hickey, 83), de Gregorio, Pearce, Campbell, Bouckennooghe; Urlovic (Banks, 77), Killen

SOUTH AFRICA: Baron; F. McCarthy, Mokoena, Booth, Kannemeyer; Lekoelea, Mbuthu, Fortune, Sheppard (Pule, 64); Nomvethé, B. McCarthy

Scoring: OlyWhites: P. Urlovic (13), own goal (31 - F. McCarthy)

South Africa: B. McCarthy (20), Q. Fortune (26), M. Booth (88).

The log-jam is building in the ACT as five teams are vying for the remaining three places in the top four, that is, after Gungahlin Juventus. Juventus with their win in the top of the table clash have now increased their lead to two full matches, but there are four points separating the next set of teams.

Canberra Olympic and Canberra Deakin both secured 2 competition points after fighting out a 1-all draw at Majura Oval on Sunday writes Nathan Long.

Deakin had their first chance in the 5th minute after a ball went over the side-line on the left side of the field, about 40 metres from the Olympic goal. Deakin's Luka Ujdur tossed the ball in to Vince Bodo, who then made a weaving run across-field until he was about 30 metres out, when he fired a curling right foot shot at goal. Olympic keeper Angelo Konstantinou just managed to deflect it with one hand.

Four minutes later, Olympic had a chance after some good work by Rob Grande and Elia Salloum down the right side. Grande crossed to Alex Castro and his long range strike missed to the left by the barest of margins.

After 20 minutes Deakin started to dominate play, getting more possession and creating more chances. Olympic coach Baz Giampaolo simply said his side "fell into a hole."

In the 26th minute, Deakin took the lead with a goal from a corner kick. Ujdur's kick found Nic Purdue outside the penalty area. His looping header snuck over the top of Angelo Konstantinou and into the back of the net. Deakin had three more genuine chances before halftime, but couldn't convert. Instead, they took a 1-0 lead into the break.

Olympic came out in the second half and began to take over the match. In an indicator of the half ahead, they began to

dominate possession and field position.

In the 51st minute, Deakin's Paul Gagetti desperately cleared off the line to stop one raid. In the 67th minute, David Arranz managed to spoil a shot from Elia Salloum when the Olympic striker had a good angle and look at goal.

Deakin started to frequently turn over possession and began making bad decisions. Coach Zoran Glavinic later blamed it on too many touches and a good Olympic defense. However, Deakin had a number of good chances to score a second goal, but luck, and Konstantinou's keeping wouldn't have a bar of it.

Olympic finally garnered some reward for their work in the 69th minute.

Awarded a free kick about 35 metres out, Castro lofted a kick deep into the penalty area. Njegosh Popovich timed his run past Deakin's defensive wall superbly and volleyed the ball into the back of the net to tie the score.

The last 20 minutes saw both teams push forward in an attempt the score one more goal. Despite managing to consistently turn the ball over, Deakin had some good chances with Paul Ivanic pushing one shot over the cross bar and an unbalanced Tony Lemezina slicing another.

Olympic had some excellent chances, with Pino Seminara missing over the top by centimetres and Robbie Perinovic just missing to the left in the 78th minute.

The final phase of play saw Ujdur desperately getting in the way of a Castro shot to deflect one final threat. Indicative of the four nature of the game, Deakin's best were their defensive players. Gagetti, John Markezic, Purdue and goalkeeper Jovan Navmovski were excellent.

Cosmos players, Konstantinou and Castro, were Olympic's best while Takis Arvanitis was very solid in defense.

While Deakin coach Zoran Glavinic wasn't overly pleased with the result, he

was not disappointed either, praising his players for a good effort.

However he was mystified over his sides drop-off in the second half.

"It's been happening the last couple of weeks. We play really, really good in the first 45 minutes, then we lapse off in the second. I don't know what that is, we need to pin-point it during training during the week," he said.

Olympic coach Baz Giampaolo was happy with the way his team re-grouped at halftime.

"I think we had enough chances in the second half to take it out... but as I said to the boys, you can't be too disappointed with the draw, but can't be happy with it. That said, we'll happily take the two points," he said.

At Jamison Oval the big match between the two top teams was billed as the Italian Derby, but it was anything but that as Gungahlin Juventus defeated Monaro 3-0. Early in the second half with a scoreless first, Monaro's keeper Ian Jeffries had to be substituted following an awkward fall.

Following that Juventus dominated as George Cattanaach was first to trouble the scorers and Steve Lazzari with John Glass added the extras.

The Capital City Suns up and down season suffered another blow causing them some serious concern regarding the finals after they lost 3-1 to Tuggeranong United at Riverside Stadium.

Tuggeranong hit early with goals to Marc and Scott Conlon. Peter Hader pegged one back for Suns before the break, but with the Suns players pushing forward Jason Warren-Smith was able to catch them on the break to finish the scoring.

Weston Creek Royals succumbed to a more determined Burns team when the latter walked away with all the points through a 3-0 victory at Woden Park.

The result was good, but with two players taken across the road to Canberra Hospital, there are some worries for the club.

Ronny McLeod netted the first goal and set up the second with a delightful cross for Josh Turco to head home. Chris Citowicki finished off proceedings very late in the match.

In the other match Belconnen United moved into second place following a 2-0 win over UCU Pumas at the University grounds. On the tight and bumpy pitch both teams battled for the full 90 minutes.

The score was 0-0 at the break, but not too long into the second period Marko Perinovic finished an indirect free kick and then with ten minutes left Daniel Camara knocked in the rebound after Scott Manson's long shot was not held.

Premier League 1st Grade: Capital City Suns 1 Tuggeranong United 3, UCU Pumas 0 Belconnen United 2, Canberra Olympic 1 Canberra Deakin 1, Weston Creek Royals 0 Burns FC 3, Gungahlin Juventus 3 Monaro 0

Premier League Under 23s: Capital City Suns 1 Tuggeranong United 0, UCU Pumas 0 Belconnen United 3, Canberra Olympic 1 Canberra Deakin 2, Weston Creek Royals 1 Burns FC 1, Gungahlin Juventus 1 Monaro 0

Premier League Under 19s: Capital City Suns 2 Tuggeranong United 3, UCU Pumas 1 Belconnen United 1, Canberra Olympic 0 Canberra Deakin 1, Weston Creek Royals 7 Burns FC 0, Gungahlin Juventus 3 Monaro 0

TABLE: Gungahlin Juventus 23, Belconnen United 17, Tuggeranong United 17, Monaro 15, Canberra Deakin 14, Canberra Olympic 13, Capital City Suns 8, Burns FC 6, University of Canberra 3, Weston Creek Royals 2.



Inside Soccer's NSL ALL-STARS

APRIL/MAY 2000

The final six rounds of the home and away



1: Bojo Jevdjovic
Gippsland Falcons

SQUAD PLAYERS:
Matt Horsley
Gareth Naven
Michael Curcija
Pablo Cardozo
Alex Tobin
Simon Colosimo
Ahmed Elrich
Aaron Silva
Brett Emerton
Chad Gibson
Alvin Ceccoli
Wayne Shroj
Ljubo Milicevic



2: Jamie Harnwell
Perth Glory



5: Angelo Costanzo
Adelaide City Force



3: David McPherson
Carlton



6: David Cervinski
Wollongong Wolves



7: Archie Thompson
Carlton



4: Andrew Marth
Carlton



8: Scott Chipperfield
Wollongong Wolves



10: Damian Mori
Adelaide City Force



9: Zeljko Babic
Marconi Stallions



11: Matt Langdon
Northern Spirit

IS selectors explain their choices

The final all-stars for the home and away season was announced at a press-conference at one of Sydney's trendiest bars, the Granville RSL. IS decided to go with a more attacking 4-4-2 formation, with two wide men encouraged to get to the byline. The side is capable of attacking with style but defending stoutly.

Bojo Jevdjovic (keeper) One of the NSL's most underrated keepers. Playing at a relatively unfashionable club shouldn't disguise the fact that he is a quality keeper.

Angelo Costanzo (libero) Amazing to think that his career was in the balance some seasons ago after a particularly nasty incident at South threatened his sight. Looks like he is on his way to becoming the next Milan Ivanovic of Adelaide City.

David McPherson (central defender) The only one from the 'Brit Pack' to have made a contribution at Carlton this year. His form going leading into the finals has been superb, with his goals the icing on the cake.

Jamie Harnwell (central defender) Like McPherson, has popped up at vital times to score for his side. He's big, strong and keeps getting better under the tutelage of Stange. He is a local product, which should please those who think the Glory have too many outside players in the side.

David Cervinski (central defender) Is a good chance for Inside Soccer's player of the year award. At 29 he is in the peak of his career. Arguably the buy of the season, 'The Shovel' is a no-nonsense defender who can link up with attack very easily and effectively.

Andrew Marth (central midfielder) Like Cervinski, Marth has tasted finals success and this experience, together with his enormous appetite for winning, has been incredibly valuable.

Scott Chipperfield (central midfielder) Epitomises Wolves. Superb at running at defences, he seems to be two yards quicker this year in a side that oozes sexiness.

Matt Langdon (wide left) Forget high priced overseas

prima donnas, Langdon this season was the real deal. In a side crippled by inconsistency little 'Langers' was the only reliable option. His left peg is sweet and his crossing first class. Undoubtedly the star of Spirit this season.

Archie Thompson (wide right) He's nippy and has the sort of natural ability that cannot be coached into a player. After joining the club from Falcons late last season he has proved to be an astute buy - his final few rounds was the key to Carlton's better than expected third place finish.

Damian Mori (central striker) No words can explain how good he was in the lead-in to these finals. Has 22 goals at time of writing, which really says it all. Rumoured to be on Glory's shopping list.

Zeljko Babic (central striker) When he's fit his pace is frightening. Big defenders must dread facing him. His form in the last six weeks of the season shored up a side that looked somewhat lost at one point. Babic was a line-ball decision with Cardozo for selection.

THE COACHES



Zoran Matic
Adelaide City Force
(all-stars coach)



Nick Theodorakopoulos
(assistant)

Zoran Matic's record over the last six weeks of the season says it all. After a loss on the south coast, there were terrific wins away to Kingz, Spirit and Marconi, with home wins over Knight and Falcons.

Those who think he is tactically too old-fashioned may have a point, but it's about results, and Zoran has achieved that this season after being written off by everyone, including *Inside Soccer*.

No matter what, after this season's renaissance they won't be discarded from pre-season predictions for the top six in 2001.

Nick Theodorakopoulos deserves credit for not only getting his side to second on the ladder, but also for doing it in a style not previously associated with Wollongong.

Nick T has brought a showbiz flourish to a side that has responded in kind. Stars abound, with Chipperfield, Horsley, Petrovski, Cervinski, Young and Masi all stepping up to the plate for Wolves.

Theodorakopoulos is now being touted for one of the league's prime coaching positions (South Melbourne).

Whatever happens he has proven his mettle by getting a side of modest talent to perform well above what anyone expected.

Now that makes him a quality coach in our book. And he's only a baby at 35!



NSL Finals stats

with Greg Blake



Carlton defender Steve Horvat. Will have the might of the attacking Olympic armada to contend with.



Matty Horsley (left) and Mark Robertson of Wollongong Wolves.

MINOR SEMI FINAL

RECORD SCORE:

Adelaide City 4 - Wollongong City 0 (1992/93)

MINOR SEMI FINAL

RECORD CROWD:

27,584 for Perth Glory v Marconi, WACA Ground in Perth (1998/99)

MINOR SEMI FINAL HIGHEST

SINGLE GAME AGGREGATE SCORE:

6 goals: Marconi 3 - Apia Leichhardt 3 (1984 Northern Division) and Marconi 3 - Sydney Olympic 3 (1985 Northern Division)

MINOR SEMI FINAL BEST INDIVIDUAL GOALSCORING PERFORMANCE:

Carl Veart (2 goals for Adelaide City v Sydney Olympic in 1991/92), Carl Veart (2 goals for Adelaide City v Wollongong City in 1992/93) and Kevin Muscat (2 goals for South Melbourne v Sydney United in 1994/95)

MOST MINOR SEMI FINALS:

Marconi (7)

MINOR SEMI FINAL WINNERS TO TAKE TITLE:

Marconi (1988)
Sydney Olympic (1989/90)
Adelaide City (1991/92)
Adelaide City (1993/94)

MINOR SEMI FINAL RESULTS DOWN THE YEARS:

1984 - (Sth Div) Heidelberg 0 - Brisbane Lions 0

* Heidelberg wins 3-2 on penalties (Nth Div) Apia Leichhardt 3 - Marconi 3

* Apia wins 4-3 on penalties

1985 - (Sth Div) Preston 2 - Heidelberg 0

(Nth Div) Marconi 3 - Sydney Olympic 3

* Marconi wins 7-6 on penalties

1986 - (Sth Div) Footscray 2 - Sunshine George Cross 0

(Nth Div) Sydney Olympic 2 - Marconi 1

1988 - Marconi 2 - South Melbourne 1

1989 - Sydney Olympic 3 - Melbourne Knights 2

89/90 - Sydney Olympic 1 - South Melbourne 0

90/91 - Adelaide City 1 - Marconi 0

91/92 - Adelaide City 2 - Sydney Olympic 1

92/93 - Adelaide City 4 - Wollongong City 0

93/94 - Adelaide City 3 - Marconi 1

94/95 - Sydney United 1 - South Melbourne 3

95/96 - Adelaide City 1 - Sydney United 0

96/97 - South Melbourne 1 - Adelaide City 0

97/98 - Marconi 2 - Wollongong City 1

98/99 - Perth Glory 1 - Marconi 0



Pablo Cardozo: one of the many attacking options for Branko Culina.



Two of the key Glory men for the second leg against Wolves: Brazilian Edgar Junior (left) and big Dion Valle. Pic by Brett Klucznik.



The run towards June 11



MAJOR SEMI-FINAL

W/E 21 May 2000

W/E 28 May 2000

2

Wollongong Wolves 1

Perth Glory v

1

Perth Glory 1

Wollongong Wolves

ELIMINATION FINALS

W/E 14 May 2000

W/E 21 May 2000

6

Marconi 0

Carlton 2

3

Carlton 1

Marconi Stallions 0

5

Sydney Olympic 4

Adelaide City Force 1

4

Adelaide Force 1

Sydney Olympic 2

MINOR SEMI-FINAL

Carlton

V

Sydney Olympic

PRELIMINARY FINAL

W/E 4 June 2000

Loser Major semi-final

V

Winner Minor semi-final

GRAND FINAL

W/E 11 June 2000

Winner Major Semi-Final

V

Winner of Preliminary Final



SATURDAY 27 MAY 11.00PM
C7 SPORT CHANNEL 13

**PERTH GLORY V
WOLLONGONG WOLVES**



GLORY

- 1 Tom Tomich
- 2 Robert Trajkovski
- 3 Jamie Harnwell
- 4 Aurelio
- 5 Vinko Buljubasic
- 6 Gareth Naven
- 7 Scott Miller
- 8 Troy Halpin
- 9 Alistair Edwards
- 10 Bobby Despotoski
- 11 Kasey Wehrman
- 12 Peter Buljan
- 13 Jamos Afkos
- 14 Dion Valle
- 15 Edgar Junior
- 16
- 17
- 18 Hamilton Thorp
- 19 John Carbone
- 20 Tony Franken
- 21 Ivan Ergic
- 22 Ljubo Milicevic
- 23 Jason Petkovic
- 24 Aaron Cole

WOLVES

- 1 Les Pogliacomi
- 2 George Souris
- 3 Alvin Ceccoli
- 4 Robert Stanton
- 5 David Cervinski
- 6 Matt Horsley
- 7 Paul Reid
- 8
- 9
- 10 Stuart Young
- 11 Scott Chipperfield
- 12 Neil Harlock
- 13 Noel Spencer
- 14 Saso Petrovski
- 15 David Huxley
- 16 Peter Lahanas
- 17 Esala Masi
- 18 Paul O'Grady
- 19 Paul Dimech
- 20 Daniel Beltrame
- 21 Mark Robertson
- 22 Ben Blake
- 23 Dino Mennillo



Venue: Subiaco Oval
Saturday 27 May 7.00PM
Head-to-Head: 9
Glory: 3
Wolves: 5
Draws: 1
Last Week: Wolves 1-0 home win over Glory.
Glory 1-0 away loss to Wolves.



SUNDAY 28 MAY 5.00 PM
C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

**CARLTON V
SYDNEY OLYMPIC**



CARLTON

- 1 Dean Anastasiadis
- 2 Dave McPherson
- 3 Craig Deans
- 4 Simon Colosimo
- 5 Sean Douglas
- 6 Andrew Marth
- 7 Stuart Slater
- 8 Mark Atkinson
- 9 Alex Moreira
- 10 Lubo Lapsansky
- 11 Archie Thompson
- 12 Mike Conroy
- 13 Steve Martin
- 14 John Markovski
- 15 Con Anthopoulos
- 16 David Terminello
- 17 Joe Tricarico
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21 Andrew Packer
- 22 Angelo Moutsopoulos
- 23 Colin Azzopardi
- 24 Joshua Kennedy
- 25 Daniel Vasilevski
- 26 Steve Horvat

OLYMPIC

- 1 Jim Kourtis
- 2 Scott Thomas
- 3 Chris Zoricich
- 4 Peter Tskenis
- 5 Scott Baillie
- 6 Ante Juric
- 7 Zlatko Arambasic
- 8 Marcus Phillips
- 9 Pablo Cardozo
- 10 Brett Emerton
- 11 Chris Kalantzis
- 12 Sebastian Sinovic
- 13
- 14 Gabriel Mendez
- 15 Lindsay Wilson
- 16 George Goutzoulis
- 17 Paul Kohler
- 18 John Kyriazopoulos
- 19 Nick Carle
- 20 George Bouhoutsos
- 21 Lee Miot
- 22 Pete Zorbas
- 23 Dylan Macallister
- 24 Norman Tome
- 25 Hussein Jomaa
- 26 Alex Duric
- 27 John Perosh
- 30 John Karoubas



Carlton-Venue: Olympic Park
Sunday 28 May 4.00PM
Head to Head: 6
Carlton: 1
Olympic: 4
Draws: 1
Last Week: Carlton 2-0 home win over Marconi.
Olympic 1-2 away win over Ferco.



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